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December 467

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* Check our Instagram posts for a list of winners



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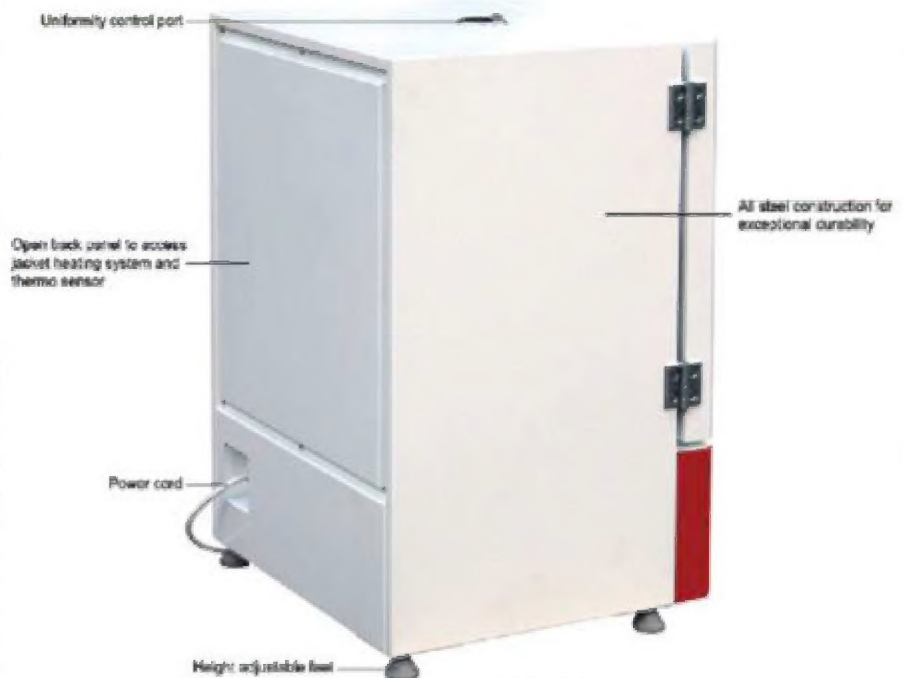
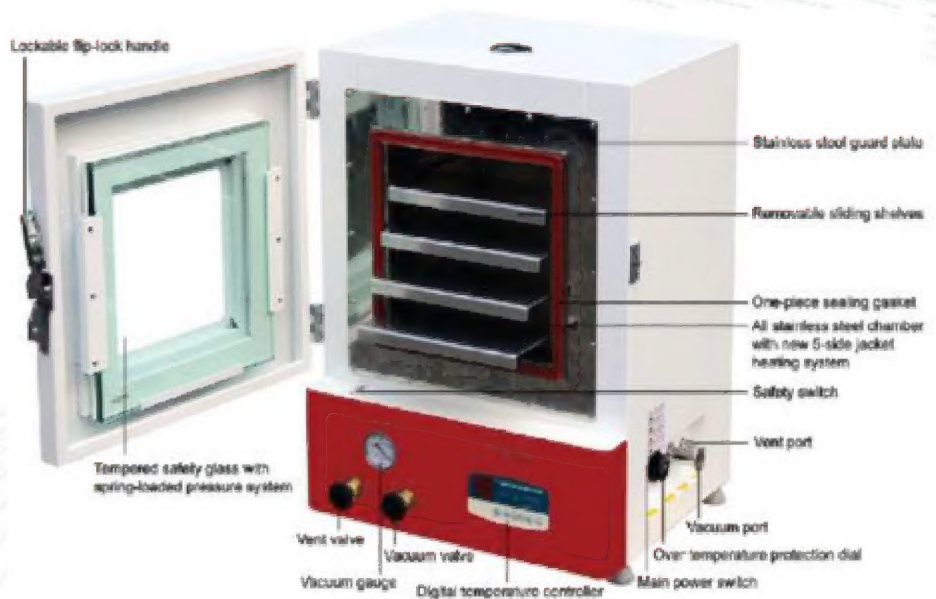
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HIGH TIMES DECEMBER



Spicy, with a complex scent and taste, the Dawgfather offers notes of diesel fuel among the usual musky Kush and Chem odors.

—The Top 10 Strains of 2014, page 71

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The second High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in the Great Lakes State allowed thousands of stoners to sample the fruits of Michigan's thriving cannabis scene. *By Samantha Nicholas*

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A survey of the most prominent pot-producing regions in the world, complete with strain updates, yield reports and assessments of the local political scene. *By Nico Escondido*

71 Top 10 Strains of 2014

HT senior cultivation editor Danny Danko highlights our favorite pot varieties from the past 12 months, including various Cannabis Cup winners, as well as some of the hottest new or improved strains available to grow and smoke now.

88 Quick Study

Beginners would love to have a mentor guiding them successfully down the garden path. One lucky grower learned with instruction from one of the world's top experts. *By Dan Skye*

99 Free the Market: The Future of Legal Marijuana

A thriving, competitive free market is by far the best way to regulate legalized pot—and to protect the interests of both cannabis consumers and the public at large. *By Jon Gettman*

108 High Times Interview: Reggie Watts

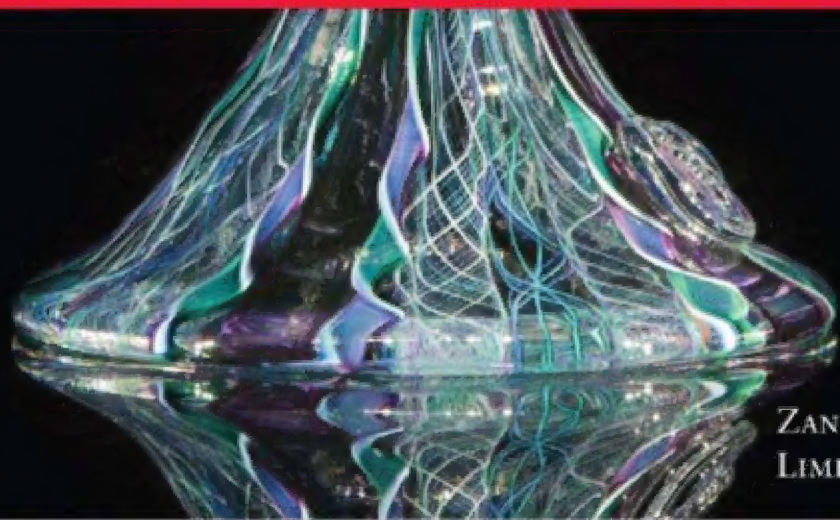
Musician, comedian and self-avowed “disinformationist” Reggie Watts talks to HT about science, authenticity, and his search for a connection to pure creativity with weed. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

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Glass Artist of the Month

In the glass world, she's known simply as ACE. It was 12 years ago when ACE turned on her first torch. She says she knew immediately that glass art was her path.

ACE focused on Italian-style glass for a number of years, earning a BFA in crafts and material studies.

An artist friend showed her how to push a bowl and pop a carb, essential skills for making pipes, which enabled her to land a job making pipes in the back of a local headshop in Richmond, VA.

In 2008, ACE followed her heart to Seattle to work with some of the best old-school pipers in the industry. As much as she loved being immersed in the rich glass culture of the Pacific Northwest, she chased the sunshine and landed in Southern California in 2011, where she currently resides.

ACE's current body of work (Instagram @amylikesfire) is inspired by her love for fantasy and science fiction, especially unicorns. As so many glass artists assert, she's thankful to be part of the glass industry during such an exciting time, when members of the



Fantasy and science fiction inspire the work of ACE.

community are exploring the outer reaches of the medium and its infinite possibilities.

Check out ACE's work at hightimes.com.

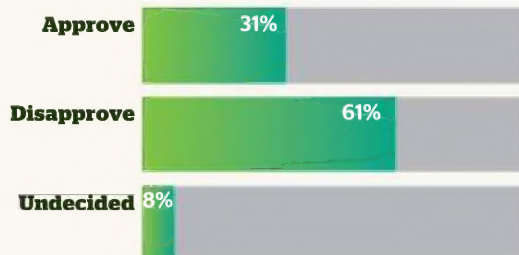


POT POLL

How's Obama Doing?

Don't ever doubt that stoners care deeply about politics. In our latest poll, we asked how you feel about the performance of President Barack Obama over the past six years. With over 2,700 responses submitted, it's clear that the Prez has got some very serious haters.

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!



40 Years of High Times!

Nearly 500 issues of *High Times* have been published over the course of the magazine's life span. And only a scarce few of you have held on to all of the issues that we've printed in our 40 years. So is all our early stuff lost forever? No way! To celebrate four decades of existence, we're now making the entire *High Times* archive available online. Go to our homepage on October 16 and find your favorite issue!



Miss December 2014

NAME: Yvonne
SCREEN NAME: Yvonne Jus Adab'Ildo
CITY: Anchorage, AK
OCC: Model, activist
AGE: 21

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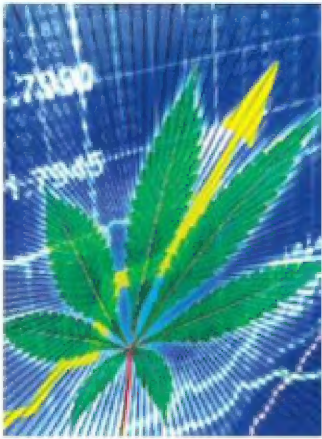
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Neo-Prohibition vs. the Free Market



When it comes to legalizing and regulating cannabis, too many of the proposals being advanced by the neo-prohibitionists—those lawmakers and policy advocates who, unable to stem the pro-cannabis tide sweeping the nation, now seek to limit its use as much as possible—simply continue the worst effects of prohibition. Instead of decisively ending the current black market in cannabis, these proposals actually *encourage* it by maintaining unreasonably high prices via regressive and onerous taxes; by ceding control of the market to government bureaucrats,

who will strictly limit the number and kind of market participants as well as the quantity and quality of the cannabis being supplied; and by generally attempting to control the means of production, when prohibition itself has already demonstrated that no such control is possible, because cannabis can in fact be produced by anyone with a modicum of botanical know-how.

Only a legal free market accessible to all and controlled exclusively by the basic capitalist laws of supply and demand can obliterate the black market in cannabis completely. It will achieve this goal by encouraging competition, which in turn will result in lower prices for cannabis products in general. These lower prices will discourage black-market opportunists—particularly teenage dealers, from whom most young buyers of cannabis make their purchases.

The other major mistake in the arguments for a government-controlled market is the neo-prohibitionists' continued reliance on the criminal-justice system as its enforcer. Criminal law and the criminal-justice system have already failed miserably as tools in the government's draconian attempts to control cannabis under prohibition. Neither has any place in a genuine free market for legal cannabis.

Prohibition will not die without a serious, sustained effort on our part. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been wasted on prohibition over the years, and now hundreds of billions more will be coming into play thanks to the new burgeoning market in legal cannabis. This new market is what we need to finally win the battle for this good herb—and to protect ourselves in the process from the excesses of government bureaucrats and law enforcement, as well as the murderous greed of Big Tobacco and the abiding unhealthiness of the liquor industry. Our natural allies—apart from Mother Nature herself—are the stakeholders in this issue. These include us veterans of the marijuana wars, who have risked our liberty and our livelihoods keeping the leaf alive through clandestine production; the libertarians, progressives and other activists who struggle to rein in a dangerously out-of-control government and get its unwholesome tentacles out of our pockets; and the new breed of emerging cannabis entrepreneurs, with their resources and strategies for building a network of people and companies devoted to exploring every aspect of one of the most helpful and diverse agricultural resources that nature has ever given us.

Read Jon Gettman's piece, "It's Time To Free the Weed Market," (page 99) and go to our new website, *RegulatingCannabis.com*, to check out our vision for a legal free market in cannabis. If you share that vision, reach out to your friends, family and social-media networks to start a dialogue about finally ending pot prohibition once and for all, by replacing it with its nemesis: an open and competitive marijuana market.

Michael Kennedy
High Times General Counsel

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Drug War Hypocrisy

Happy birthday! I have many memories of the classic *High Times* from the '70s that my buddy and I swiped from his stepdad's collection—going *way* back to when coke and naked babes were included in the mag. I used to flip through those pages and see amazing bricks and piles of the old Acapulco Gold and Panama Red *sativas*. The special-edition calendar of naked babes posing with my favorite strains was another high point. Ah, the good old days!

Another reason I love *High Times* is its coverage of the War on Drugs. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2012, one drug-related arrest occurred every 20.31 seconds, a DUI every 24.58 seconds. In total, one innocent American was arrested for a victimless crime every 7.88 seconds, for an estimated 4 million victimless-crime arrests per year. Indeed, well over half of America's entire federal prison population is composed of citizens convicted of victimless crimes. Also, statistics prove that our so-called "Land of the Free" has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Our incarceration rate is more than five times that of the countries of Europe, as well as Canada, Australia, Japan, etc. And all of this is the direct result of the unconstitutional creation and enforcement of victimless-crime laws!

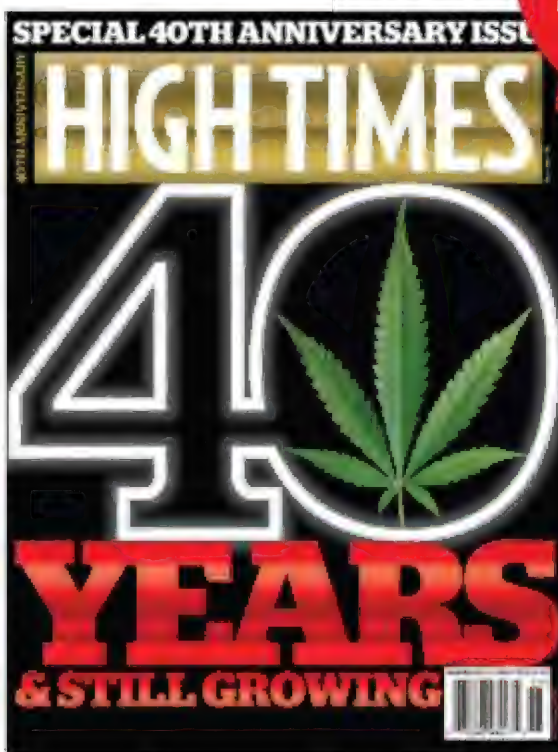
Unfortunately, there *is* a victim in every victimless crime. That person is the innocent American accused of committing the crime, who is now a victim of being assaulted with handcuffs, kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by the police. In every arrest for a victimless crime, the cops are the only party victimizing someone. So, truthfully, the police are the real criminals!

Please support my Louisiana Capitol Smoke Out Campaign, Petition for Absolute Liberty and other efforts to end the enforcement of these unconstitutional victimless-crime laws at ziggyburning.com.

Ziggy Burning

Massachusetts Cop Block

It is an honor to be writing to you. I've been a reader of *High Times* for 16 years, and I love it. That being said, my reason for writing is that on April 11, 2013, I was arrested at gunpoint, along with two other legal medical marijuana cardholders, by the Braintree police and their Special Reaction Team at our local mall. I yelled quite clearly and announced that *all* of us were medical



Unfortunately, there is a victim in every victimless crime. That person is the innocent American accused of committing the crime, who is now a victim of being assaulted with handcuffs, kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by the police.

patients. I provided documentation, but they laughed at me and said that there was no such thing as medical marijuana in Massachusetts. They accused me of being a drug dealer and said that the courts could sort it out.

Today, all of the charges against us were dismissed—finally, after 16 months—and the judge also allowed a motion ordering a return of the following property: marijuana and hash, \$420 and \$795.

I will be the first person in Massachusetts to get meds back from the police.

Derick Eaton

High Crimes in Iowa

Approximately half the states in this country, including my own state of Iowa, recognize the medicinal value of marijuana—and two of those states have also legalized cannabis for recreational use.

In 2013, Benton Mackenzie, his wife Loretta, their 70-year-old parents and their son Cody, were arrested in Iowa and charged with multiple counts related to the cultivation and possession of marijuana. Benton was growing a particular strain, high in cannabidiol (CBD),

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in order to create cannabis oil to treat the cancer that he was diagnosed

with in 2011. Benton has a legal recommendation from the state of Oregon for medical use, but it means nothing in Scott County, Iowa, where he and his family reside.

Benton has been battling a rare cancer of the blood vessels that results in painful tumors. He was juicing raw cannabis leaves, which have a known nutritional value and are rich in fatty acids. He was arrested for growing 71 plants—a seemingly high number, but what most people don't realize is the large amount of plant material necessary for cancer treatment. The scheduling of cannabis, along with its derivatives, as a Schedule I controlled substance has prevented much-needed scientific research, but the anecdotal evidence abounds: Stories of the healing properties of marijuana are coming to light each and every day.

Judge Henry Latham barred Benton and his co-defendants from using a medical defense.

Judge Latham additionally denied a motion that would have allowed Benton to present medical testimony. Benton cited the newly enacted Cannabidiol Act, signed by Governor Terry Branstad on May 30, but the judge ruled that the new law has no bearing on the Mackenzies' case. The jury was excused while Benton gave what little testimony he could. In effect, the judge stripped Benton of both his right and his responsibility to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Benton's sentencing is set for August 28 at the Scott County Courthouse. But in the meantime, the Mackenzies were allowed to travel to Oregon, where he was able to receive medical cannabis—something that is not the norm for convicted felons awaiting sentencing.

Regardless of anyone's personal feelings regarding the matter of legalization, the fact is that nearly half the nation has endorsed the value of medical marijuana—including some 1.7 million registered voters in Iowa. Benton Mackenzie does not deserve to die in jail.

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GLOBAL HARVEST OG Kush, the undisputed Queen of Cali, covers the walls of this drying room, aptly named The Cave. As per usual, the OG is coming down in waves this year—both in the north and south of California. Be sure to check out the other big-name strains coming out this harvest season from cities around the world in our 2014 Global Harvest Report. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**







December 2014 **High Times**

17

ROOKIE SUCCESS Anyone who truly loves cannabis, at one time or another, has considered growing. Wouldn't it be nice if an expert guided you in the growroom? And wouldn't it be extra-nice if a top dispensary purchased the crop after harvest? That's what happened to this lucky grower and his garden of Platinum Cookies, Blue Dream and Omrita. Check out "Quick Study" on page 88. *Photo by Dan Skye*

**Contact
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Catfish
1st Place *Sativa*
Arborside Compassion



Ghost Train Haze #1
2nd Place *Sativa*
Organibliss



MelonGum
3rd Place *Sativa*
We Grow Education and
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Gorilla Glue
1st Place Hybrid
Herbal Solutions



Death Star
2nd Place Hybrid
Pure West Compassion Club



Veganic Candyland
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December 2014 *High Times*

MICHIGAN'S FINEST Connoisseur-quality flowers and hash competed for top honors at the High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in Clio, MI. Big prizes went to Arborside Compassion, Oasis Medical Seeds and Herbal Solutions for their respective entries Catfish, Paris OG and Gorilla Glue. For more on the Midwest Marijuana Mashup turn to page 45. *Photos by Lochfoot*

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These are the same formulations we (one of only three companies in the world granted a National Government license to grow cannabis) perfected over the course of eight generations of product improvements discovered during 15 years of cannabis specific research and development by a team of 23 plant PhD's—supported by a small army of undergraduates ...

... The same formulations we perfected using some of the world's most sophisticated plant tissue testing equipment like our quadrupole gas chromatograph in our state-of-the-art Bulgarian laboratory that measures to the parts per trillion ...

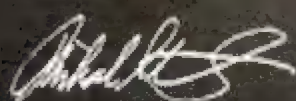
... Come on ... Really?

Look, you're smarter than that. We all know the imitation cola you buy from discount stores are "reverse engineered" to copy Coca-Cola® too. But is it exactly the same? Absolutely not!

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Sincerely,



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Highwitness News

Robin Williams Farewell



Entertainment

New Vibes from Creepoid

Philly's high hometown heroes . p.32



Food

Pot Buttered Rum

Make your winter warm and toasty! p.38



Sactioned by the government, cannabis will become Jamaica's most valuable cash crop.

Legalized Jamaica? Soon Come

A nation in America's backyard is seeing the light. When will we? *By Rick Cusick*

In January 2013, when Raymond Pryce, a member of the Jamaican Parliament, introduced a bill to decriminalize marijuana, the majority of Jamaicans had little desire for ganja reform. The young MP took a lot of heat for his act of conscience. "I think earthquakes and hurricanes would have passed with less notice," Pryce told *High Times*. The criticism "was loud, it was significant, and it was continuous for some time." Now, less than two years later (and by the time you read these words), possession of up to two ounces of pot will no

longer be a crime in Jamaica; medical, scientific and religious use will be recognized by the state; and existing criminal records for low-level possession charges will be expunged. Most importantly, all throughout the island—and even behind the closed carved-wood doors of Jamaica House—the discussion has rapidly evolved from scofflaws to decrim to the likelihood of legalization and the multibillion-dollar market that comes with it ... not just for Jamaica, mind you, but for the entire Caribbean economic community.

Following Justice Minister Mark Golding's historic announcement that the country would move to decriminalize ganja, Jamaicans and foreign interests alike scrambled for position in whatever might come next. Pryce suggested that the government create a Jamaica Cannabis Research Institute. The Westmorland Ganja & Hemp Growers Association, led by the renowned Rastafarian elder Ras Iyah V, met publicly at a nondescript crossroads in the outlaw lands on Orange Hill to declare the cultural rights of "the ones who have paid the price," and further announced that the Westmorland guild had contracted to deliver 100,000 grams of medical-grade ganja to a company in Canada. In Kingston, the politically connected Ganja Future Growers & Producers Association, composed of entrepreneurial Jamaican citizens who do not grow ganja now and might never

have grown it—but who, seeing the potential for explosive profits, certainly *would* grow ganja in a legalized land—announced that they have a handshake deal with the same Canadian concern.

What's the difference between the Future Growers and their counterparts in Westmorland? "It's a matter of technicality," said Delano Seiveright, one of the founders of the association, a well-connected Kingston politico and a director of the Cannabis Commercial and Medicinal Research Task Force. "In the end, everybody's going to be involved: the current growers, the future growers. We're going to make it work."

Seiveright added, "We've made a little progress as it relates to medical and to hemp, and that announcement will be made within the coming weeks." Two days later, Justice Minister Golding announced that he would personally chair an inter-ministerial subcommittee to craft a legal framework for the development of the medical-ganja and industrial-hemp industries in Jamaica.

Everyone was on hand on June 22 at the Sixth International Maroon Conference in Charles Town, at the foot of the sovereign Blue Mountains, when the leaders of the six tribes announced their own bulletproof plan to grow medical weed and sell it to Canada. The Windward Maroons—descendants of Spanish

Justice Minister Golding announced that he would personally chair an inter-ministerial subcommittee to craft a legal framework for the development of the medical-ganja and industrial-hemp industries in Jamaica.

slaves who won their freedom from the British 275 years ago to the day of the conference—were not asking for permission. Everyone agreed that they have the indigenous right to grow whatever they want up on their mountaintop, but like the competing guilds in Westmorland and Kingston, the Maroons would have to file papers with the Jamaican government "within 90 days" for an export license.

So it was taken as a good sign when the Jamaican justice minister agreed to speak at the Charles Town event. "You will perhaps have noticed that on Thursday, June the 12th, I announced some changes to the laws governing the treatment of ganja," Golding deadpanned, to joyful applause. "It is important to understand the rationale and context that informed that particular decision." He explained that the government had decided to adopt a more enlightened approach to small quantities of ganja, "while remaining true to our international obligations."

Golding added: "We are operating within an international context [that] hopefully will evolve. We're marking time. As the world moves, we are able to move."

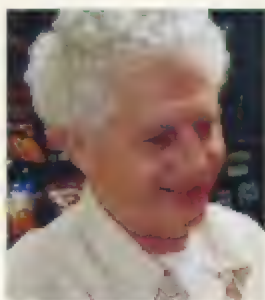
Certainly, the most significant response to Golding's electrifying announcement came on July 3, at the semi-annual summit of the heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Antigua, where the combined leaders agreed to immediately establish a regional commission to review marijuana policy for the entire Caribbean basin and its 15 million inhabitants. In a statement released at the end of the summit, CARICOM charged its commission "to conduct a rigorous inquiry into the social, economic, health and legal issues surrounding marijuana use in the Region and to advise whether there should be a change in the current drug classification of marijuana, thereby making the drug more accessible for a range of users."

The commission is expected to submit its recommendations at CARICOM's next summit, scheduled for February 2016. ✻

HIGH FIVE

Pot Prisoners

So many souls still languish in prison for marijuana "crimes." *By Mark Miller*



Larry Duke

A decorated Vietnam veteran as well as the holder of a US patent for clean-water delivery systems, the 67-year old Duke is the federal government's longest-serving nonviolent marijuana prisoner in the US. He's been incarcerated for over 24 years at FCI Jesup in Georgia after being busted in a sting operation to import two tons of weed.



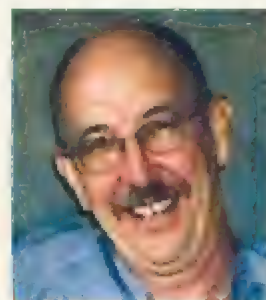
Leopoldo Hernández-Miranda

Hernández-Miranda was busted in 1993 in Florida after being instructed by his employer to watch a "safe house" with 3,100 pounds. It was actually a sting. DEA agents swooped in and arrested Hernández-Miranda. He was sentenced to life without parole in federal prison. He's now a sickly 75-year-old man—and still behind bars.



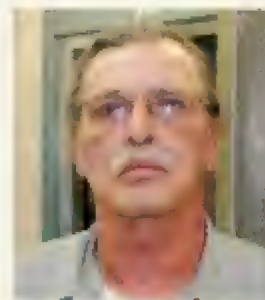
Ramon Brown

Brown transported 20 pounds of pot in Houston County, AL. The 44-year old got life. At his sentencing in 2012, the judge cited his alleged "lack of respect for law enforcement," even though Brown—who had eight felony convictions as a young man—had been out of trouble with the law for nearly two decades when he was busted in 2011.



John Knock

A first-time nonviolent offender, the 67-year-old Knock was convicted in a so-called "dry conspiracy" case in which no weed whatsoever was found on him. Knock has been languishing in federal prison since 1996. He received two life terms plus 20 years based on the "evidence" of informant testimony—part of a DEA sting operation in tough-on-pot Florida.



Jeff Mizanskey

If life for selling pot is an outrageous sentence, how about life for simple possession? Mizanskey, 61, has been locked up in state prison since 1993. Missouri's "prior and persistent drug offender" law allows judges to hand out life sentences even for nonviolent drug offenses. Mizanskey had three grams when arrested. The supplier only got 10 years.

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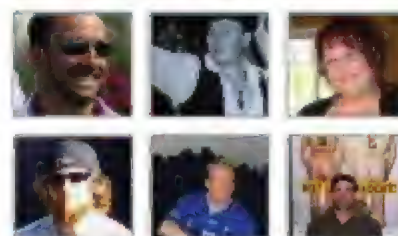
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Registers Ring in Washington

Weed retailers in Washington State rang up nearly \$3.8 million in sales during the first month in which adults could legally buy pot for recreational use, while the state raked in over \$1 million in taxes. These figures will only increase once all of Washington's registered pot shops open for business. Officials estimate that over 300 legal marijuana outlets will be established statewide.

The first month's totals did not include sales of edibles, which were delayed until August 6 due to a stringent oversight process required by the Washington Liquor Control Board, which regulates and licenses the state's cannabis industry.

Meanwhile, the tax bite taken by the Evergreen State is huge. A 25 percent excise tax is imposed at all three levels of sales: The cultivator who sells to the processor, the processor who sells to the retailer, and the retailer who sells to the consumer all must pay the tax. The state legislature projects a \$122 million windfall in the next two-year budget cycle.

Robin Williams, RIP

"Do you think God gets stoned? I think so ... look at the platypus."

That was one of the legendary Robin Williams's many *high-larious* quips about pot. But the comedian left us in August, perishing from asphyxiation by his own hand in his Northern California home.

Drug humor was an essential element of Williams's improvisational, stream-of-consciousness repertoire. Born in Chicago, he rose to fame in the sitcom *Mork & Mindy*, which ran from 1978 to '82. By the end of his life, Williams had appeared in over 70 movies, winning the Best Supporting Actor Oscar in 1998 for *Good Will Hunting*.

A complex man, Williams was versatile enough to play serious roles or to voice the frenetic Genie in the classic cartoon *Aladdin*. But he also battled cocaine and alcohol addiction. Though he stayed sober for over two decades, Williams relapsed in 2006 and, as recently as July, had entered a 12-step



Early in his career in New York City.

rehab program in Minnesota. Those close to him said he also battled severe depression.

Williams had a lot to say about pot, including this shout-out to the Golden State: "California weed is kick-ass fucking weed. This is weed that even Jamaicans go, 'Oh, don't smoke dat weed, mon.' ... You get so stoned you end up sitting on your couch for a week, to the point that your cat's going, 'Get up, you asshole!'" Or this vote in favor of legalization: "If they legalize it

... they're going to have to put a warning on a box of joints: 'The surgeon general has determined this will make your music awesome—even Yanni.'"

Despite the tragic overtones that marked the end of Robin Williams's life, his comic brilliance now belongs to the ages.



Don't Get Too Comfortable...

Since 1981, 19 million of us have been busted for pot, according to a new study assembled by expert pot researcher Jon Gettman. And while weed-related busts in 2012 (749,825 total) were down from those in 2008 through 2010 (with an annual average of 853,000), 2012 still marked a *110 percent increase* in the pot-arrest rate since 1991—during a time when the political and cultural attitudes toward pot were becoming much more favorable.

In 2012, simple possession busts accounted for 88 percent of all marijuana arrests; only 12 percent involved actual criminal sales. That same year, pot arrests comprised 48.3 percent of all drug busts across the United States, but in five states—Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Wyoming—pot arrests accounted for more than *two-thirds* of all drug offenses.

And let us not forget that, currently, only 23 states allow patients access to medical pot—and only two of our 50 states have legalized adult recreational use. For most of these United States, pot remains a dangerous substance, at least when it comes to the law.



Soon, the National Football League will have to formulate a sane policy on pot. Recent comments by current and former NFL players indicate players in general tend to use pot medicinally rather than recreationally. Washington safety Ryan Clark says: "I know a lot of guys who don't regularly smoke marijuana who would use it during the season."

As we know, cannabis is far safer than prescription pain pills and their accompanying side effects. But even if the NFL does sanction medical use, it still has to address recreational use among players. Both Washington and Colorado have legalized adult, recreational use—and NFL franchises.

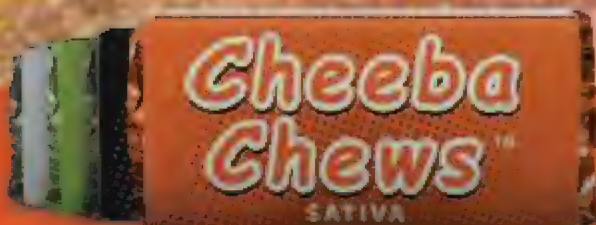
The recreational pot issue also highlights the league's woefully misguided policies. The NFL routinely suspends players for four games after a second positive test. Compare that to the two-game penalty that Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice received after physically assaulting his fiancé.

THE ORIGINAL MEDICATED

COLORADO =BORN=

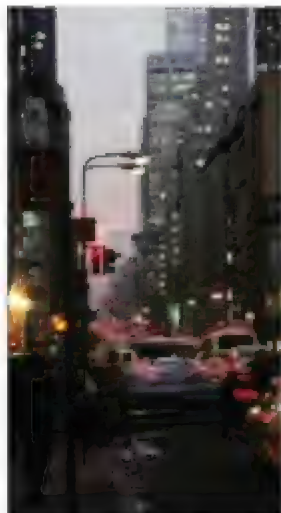
CHOCOLATE TAFFY

2009



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Highly Safe Drivers

Highway fatalities in Colorado are at near-historic lows. In an August analysis, *Washington Post* opinion blogger Radley Balko demonstrated that through July, the first full year of retail recreational cannabis sales has seen a significant drop in highway fatalities. Furthermore, total traffic fatalities are at their lowest since 2002.

Interestingly, while the number of miles driven by Americans overall has declined since the mid-2000s, the mileage logged by Colorado drivers is on the rise. Once you include this variable, Colorado's traffic-fatality rate is the lowest it's been in *decades*.

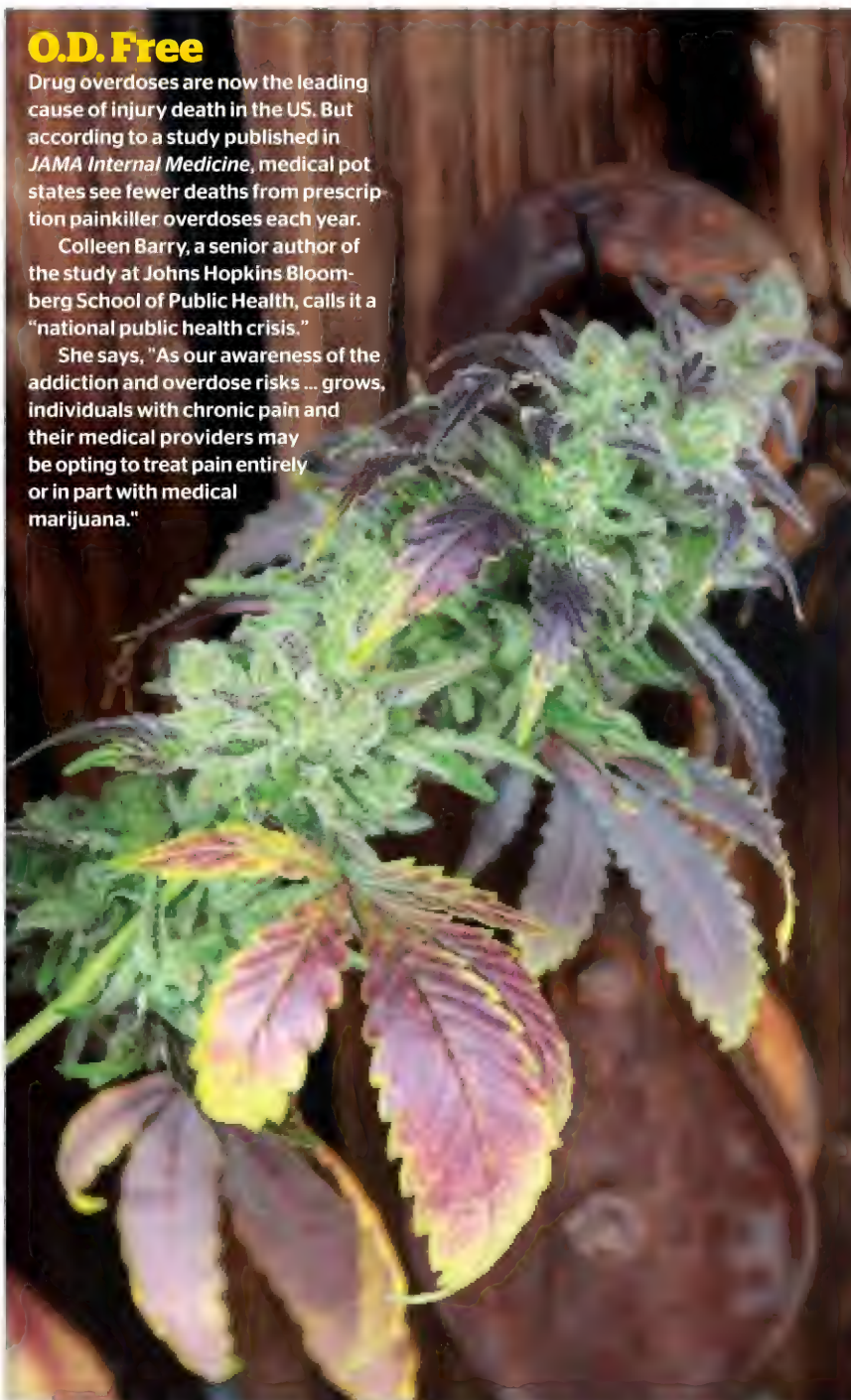
The report gives further credence to the evidence from past studies indicating that legalization is associated with safer driving. A 2012 study by *4AutoInsurance-Quote.com* found that traffic fatalities declined 9 percent in states with medical marijuana laws, while a 1992 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study reported that drivers with THC in their system had accident-responsibility rates even lower than those of drug-free drivers.

O.D. Free

Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in the U.S. But according to a study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, medical pot states see fewer deaths from prescription painkiller overdoses each year.

Colleen Barry, a senior author of the study at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, calls it a "national public health crisis."

She says, "As our awareness of the addiction and overdose risks ... grows, individuals with chronic pain and their medical providers may be opting to treat pain entirely or in part with medical marijuana."



Newsom for Guv!

Although California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom admits he's never tried pot (he says he doesn't care for the smell), he supports legalizing recreational cannabis and voices outright opposition to the Drug War. A likely gubernatorial candidate, Newsom says he would endorse a legalization measure on the California ballot in 2016, provided it was written properly. He also sagely advocates keeping the taxes on pot sufficiently low to decrease (if not eliminate) black-market sales.

Newsom was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Marin County Bar Association. When he was challenged by San Anselmo Councilman Ford Greene—who brought up hard

drugs like heroin and asked, "Why should we stop with only the legalization of marijuana?"—Newsom retorted: "I happen to believe that marijuana is a hell of a lot more benign than heroin, and methamphetamine, and cocaine I would have a harder time arguing for a legalization pathway for those drugs."

Newsom currently heads a state-wide task force analyzing the impact that cannabis legalization would have on the Golden State. In an August radio interview, he denounced prohibition while also keenly distinguishing between the personal and the political. "I don't like drug abuse or drug use," Newsom stated. "That said, I dislike the War on Drugs more. It is a war on people of color, it is a war on poor people—and it is an outrage."



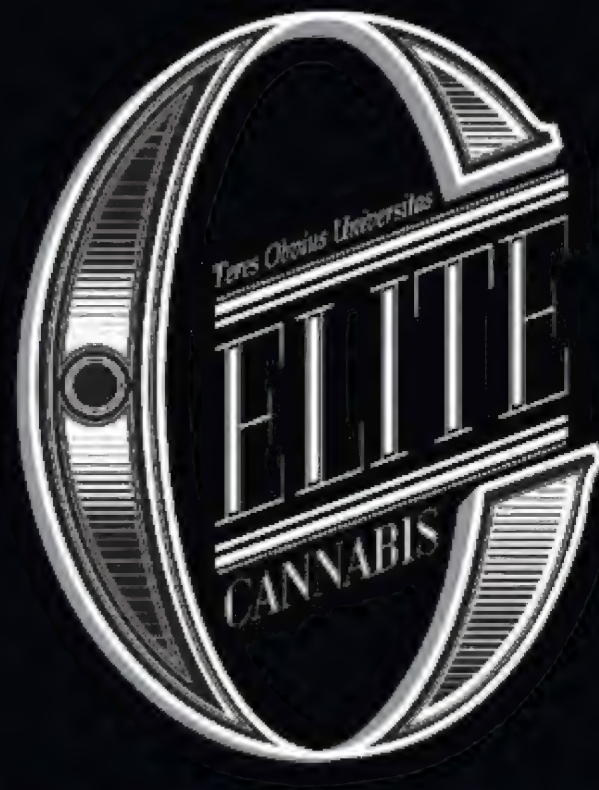
We're Bushed!

Let's swap politicians. How about Presidential hopeful Jeb Bush for President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia?

Speaking last week before a drug policy forum, the newly re-elected Santos publicly endorsed a bill to legalize medical cannabis nationwide, characterizing the legislation as "a practical, compassionate measure to reduce the pain of patients with terminal illnesses." He noted that allowing the government to distribute medical pot would "strip from the hands of criminals the role of intermediary between the patient and the substance that allows them to relieve their suffering."

But Jeb Bush, Florida's ex-Governor, denounced a ballot measure that would legalize medical marijuana in Florida. Every poll projects that Amendment 2 will win in a landslide in November. Bush warned of "large-scale marijuana operations" that would "take root across Florida, under the guise of using it for medicinal purposes." Like his brother, Jeb believes that interminable wars are good for America. He essentially dissed his own party: a pre-election Quinnipiac University poll indicates 80 percent of Florida Republicans back the measure.

So who exactly does Jeb want to represent?

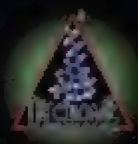


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HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Morocco: Hashish Pipeline to Libyan Militias?

In June, police in Morocco announced the seizure of nearly 30 tons of hashish—one of the largest hauls ever made in this top cannabis-exporting nation. The cops raided a warehouse in the port city of Casablanca and seized 12 tons of *chira*, after discovering 16.7 tons concealed inside a shipping container a day earlier—part of the same consignment. The container was apparently bound for Libya.

Just as the Moroccan busts were underway, Libyan authorities announced two major hashish hauls, netting a total of 15 tons. In both cases, the contraband was found inside shipping containers being transported by commercial vessels. Lawless Libya, with a profusion of militias needing clandestine funds for arms purchases, seems to be emerging as the new transshipment point for Moroccan hash.

Mexico: US Border Patrol Agents Accused of Arms Smuggling

According to a report by Mexico's *El Universal* on June 18, a witness under the protection of the Mexican government testified to the Prosecutor General of the Republic



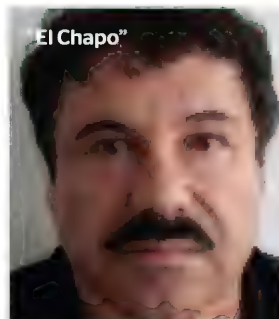
Albania: Cannabis Growers Battle Security Forces

Hundreds of Albanian police, backed by armored vehicles, stormed the southern village of Lazarat on June 16, after cannabis growers reportedly fired machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at officers sent in on a raid. At least four people—a police officer and three villagers—were injured in the operation. Growers burned their own crops in the fields as the village erupted in gun battles.

Lazarat is said to produce some 900 tons of cannabis annually, worth 4.5 billion euros (\$6.1 billion US)—equivalent to nearly half of Albania's gross domestic product. The village of some 5,000 people lives off the proceeds from the cannabis trade. Aerial photos suggest that 60 hectares were cultivated in Lazarat last November, amounting to an estimated half of the country's total marijuana production. Heavily armed villagers have repeatedly fended off security forces sent in to eradicate the crop.

(PGR) that members of the US Border Patrol collaborated with the Sinaloa Cartel in trafficking arms to the powerful syndicate. The sworn testimony is being used as evidence against the recently apprehended kingpin Joaquín Guzmán Loera, a.k.a. "El Chapo"—who is accused, among many other charges, of supervising Gente Nueva, the cartel's armed wing.

The protected witness—Javier Sandoval, a.k.a. "Victoria"—served as a Gente Nueva agent in the border town of Nogales, Sonora. Beginning in November 2009, he oversaw the shipment of several truckloads of weapons from Arizona. According to documents examined by *El Universal* reporters, Sandoval told



PGR investigators that "on the United States side of the border, where the provider left the trucks abandoned, these vehicles were escorted by the Border Patrol to the frontier with Mexico to prevent them from being intercepted." He stated that a cell called "Los Salazar" operated in Arizona to procure arms for Gente Nueva, with the apparent cooperation of corrupt Border Patrol elements.

Sandoval was

murdered in Mexico City in December 2012, despite being under federal protection.

Kenya: British Khat Ban Sparks Backlash

Kenyan khat growers' livelihoods are threatened by the United Kingdom's new ban on the leaf. Unlike cannabis, khat cannot be grown easily in the UK, and it must be consumed fresh to have any effect. Before the ban, more than a thousand tons of khat were flown in annually from East Africa—in 2013, around £15 million worth (\$25 million US) was imported from Kenya alone. A group of Kenyan lawmakers say that the ban will destroy the livelihoods of nearly two million people in



the highland district of Meru; in retaliation, they've introduced a bill that would confiscate land owned by British nationals in the district.

The Kenyan lawmakers say that Brits own about a quarter of Meru's farmland, producing mostly wheat and barley.

Colombia: FARC Renounces Narco Profits

The Colombian government and the FARC guerrilla organization announced an agreement on May 16, titled "Solution to the Problem of Illicit Drugs," in which they pledged to work together against the narco trade. FARC, whose top leaders face extradition to the US on drug-trafficking charges, agreed to "end any relationship" with the illegal drug trade and to cooperate in a "national program for the substitution of the illicit uses of coca, poppy, and marijuana crops." "With this [agreement], we will eliminate the gasoline that has fueled the conflict in Colombia—drug trafficking," said Humberto de la Calle, the government's lead negotiator. 🌿

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

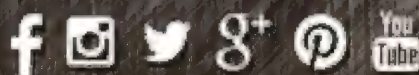


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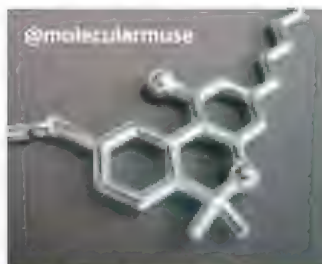


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Etsy-Betsy Stoner

The e-commerce craft fair Etsy opens up a whole new world for weed enthusiasts in search of sartorial splendor. The quirky online market offers vintage and one-of-a-kind handmade pieces from individual retailers who are often based out of their homes ... and we're guessing a bunch of them blaze for inspiration before getting creative. At *Etsy.com*, type in "marijuana" as the search term and peruse weed-inspired clothing, jewelry, shoes, bags, purses, patches, pins and more with a just a few clicks. The "live the leaf" lifestyle is gaining prominence: A plethora of pot-leaf earrings, silkscreened shirts, decals and designer wear are on display from canny craftspeople around the globe.

Seeking the perfect pot-themed gift for a loved one? Take a quick bong rip and shop from the comfort of your couch! Our favorite handmade items spotted whilst browsing include a resin-encased marijuana-seed ring; a leaf-emblazoned bamboo smartphone case; a dance-class-ready Mary Jane leotard; a badass THC-molecule necklace; some sparkly marijuana pasties for the reefer-loving raver girl; and pot-print nail decals—perfect for a quick DIY weedie cure. Canna-chic is the look of the moment, so we're advising stoners to accessorize accordingly. Visit *Etsy.com*.



Take a Snow Day

The cold weather is here, and there's all kinds of outdoor fun to be had while high. Pot-legal Colorado and Washington offer some of the country's best ski hills: Try blazing down the Mary Jane run at Winter Park Resort. And for stoners intimidated by a black diamond run, may we suggest another sort of wintery wonderland adventure? Snowshoeing! The soft crunching of the snow, the silence of the woods, the silver-frosted trees glittering overhead... It's a most serene way to spend a baked day. Pack a thermos with some Pot-Buttered Rum (recipe on page 38) to keep you toasty. And bring a compass. We don't want you getting lost out there.

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Any given time of day, if you walk into Nasty Neil's workspace, you'll find him sculpting, painting, creating a fusion art/food show, making beats, designing clothes or otherwise brainstorming the next Wasted Talent creation.

The multidimensional artist started Wasted Talent 10 years ago in New York. Since then, Nasty Neil's sculptures have been featured in many magazines and gallery shows, including at the October Comic-Con in New York City. Designer weed- and dab-themed custom toys, modeled after the rabbit-like Kidrobot figures known as Dunnies, are one Nasty Neil specialty that really draws the eye. Nasty's details are fine and his paintwork impeccable. Especially intricate is the honeycomb Dunny—relabelled "Dabby"—with its many caverns of golden goodness.

Little Nasty Neil was sculpting dinosaurs with flair by age 4, but his custom toys started getting popular back when MySpace was still poppin'. "I saw all my favorite artists doing these toys," he explains, "and I found out what they were. I got one, made one, posted it up on MySpace—and after that, rappers, clothing boutiques and other magazines were hitting me up. Kind of by accident, I was a toy customizer. Around the same time, I came out with my first two shirts and started my company, Wasted Talent. I had people thinking I had a whole team, I was doing so much at once. They were like, 'Who *is* this guy?'"

To answer that question, Nasty's the guy who makes weed medallions with unique textures (nothing 2-D about 'em). He's the guy who will "rumble your brain" with his original beats. He's the guy whose hands are constantly creating—the guy to watch. Follow Nasty Neil's ever-evolving artwork on Twitter or Instagram @WSTDTLNT, or visit *wstdtln.com*. *Mary Ought Six*





"We've had a lot of people out in Colorado say the record sounds really good out on their pot farms."

That makes people want to party and take drugs like nonsense motherfuckers!"

Creepoid have been staples of that Philly scene for a few years, but they've just pulled up stakes for Savannah, GA. "It's cheaper there," Anna says, "and our record labels are close. We've always had a really receptive audience down there."

"People bringing pot for us to our shows," Pat adds.

"It's happened several times," laughs Sean. "That's part of the reason we're moving there."

"He's not lying," Nick says with a wink.

"We've had a lot of response from people out in Colorado and further west," Pat continues, "who say the record sounds really good out on their pot farms." That makes sense: Tracks like "Vulgar" boast a sung-around-the-campfire intimacy that must sound great in big-sky country.

With the track lists for two upcoming EPs on Graveface still to be considered, who knows where the band's next batch of inspiration will be found? But Creepoid are determined to make a go of it. "We're not lazy people," Pat says. "So at the end of it, if all our energy is going into one band, I don't see why we can't push it as far as we fucking can!" 🌿

Conversion Plan

Creepoid, Philly's dreamiest noisemakers, leave home in search of blue skies and big highs. *By Jesse Dorris*

"We've been a punk band from the beginning," says Creepoid's keen drummer, Patrick Troxell. "People want to throw labels at us, like 'shoegaze' or '1990s revivalists' or whatever. Dude, I get it. But I don't want to revive shit—and that's because we're all working class!" Emphasis on *working*.

As the band members sit down to talk over a few beers about their self-titled second album—stacked with 11 gauzy, rambunctious indie-rock gems—they've just stumbled out of their brand-new van after a traffic-packed drive from Philly to Brooklyn. The four Creepoids recently quit their jobs to hit the road, first on a nationwide tour opening for Against Me! and then on further fall dates with fellow Pennsylvanians Balance and

Composure. The van is "a Dodge Ram," laughs singer/bassist Anna Troxell, Patrick's wife and a former professor of digital media at Drexel University.

"A crazy conversion van," Patrick continues, "with a TV and pimp lights—and it's *way* easier to smoke weed in it."

"We've got window shades now," guitarist Nick Kulp explains.

"It's all or nothing now," Patrick says.

Creepoid's new album, on No Idea, and its attendant Record Store Day EP, *Wet* (Graveface), push the psychedelic throb of the band's early songs (collected on their debut, *Horse Heaven*, which Patrick says was "planned out on a good five-mile hike through the woods, on acid, fighting bushes thinking they

were bears") into a more forceful amalgam of squalling guitars, cooed vocals and tumbling drums. Live, singer/guitarist Sean Miller and new guitarist Kulp rip the layers of production off like bandages, exposing the songs' rougher patches.

"There's a really raw scene in Philly right now," Patrick says. "In the late '90s, there was a ton of hardcore bands, and now they've all grown up to play in these really good bands the rest of the world has to adapt to. It's like, they all come from the streets and play fucking beautiful music



Classic(al Music) Stoner Move

"Figuring out the track order" on their eponymous album, Anna says, "we watched *Beethoven* with the sound off. When it synched up, like *Dark Side of the Moon* with *The Wizard of Oz*, we knew this was it!" Isn't that movie about a talking dog or something?

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The Gray Lady's Bright Green Future

A new era of marijuana journalism has arrived.

On Sunday, July 27, the *New York Times* made history, becoming the first major national newspaper to call for an end to marijuana prohibition. The *Times* editorial, titled simply "Repeal Prohibition, Again," was a forceful argument for legalization that reflected a tectonic shift in the paper of record's position, which was, until now, mostly conservative regarding marijuana prohibition and the War on Drugs.

The editorial prompted a tidal wave of media attention. *Gawker* published a piece scolding the *Times* for its self-importance, declaring that "on the issue of marijuana, *High Times* is much more of a 'thought leader' than the *New York Times* will ever be." Be that as it may, the Gray Lady's call for legalization was significant—even if the *Times* was a bit behind the times.

Andy Rosenthal, the head of the paper's editorial board, told *High Times* that the decision to call for an end to marijuana prohibition was unanimous. A *Times* "Op-Doc" about Chris Williams, a Montana grower who received an 80-year prison sentence following a federal raid on his state-legal grow, helped convince the 18-person board that simply calling on Washington to respect the pot policies adopted by individual states wasn't a strong enough statement. Rosenthal denounced Williams's prison sentence as "deranged," adding: "People keep getting arrested and put in prison. So 'wait and see,' to us, just felt wrong."

When asked why the *New York Times* found itself 40 years behind *High Times*, Rosenthal replied that



The *New York Times* now shares a responsibility to advocate for the release of those imprisoned for nonviolent marijuana crimes.

although he's been in favor of marijuana since he was 18, there's a "gap between personal opinion" and action taken by the editorial board. Early this year, however, it became clear that the paper's stance was harming its coverage of the issue: Editors wanted to write positively about pot, but couldn't, so long as the *Times*'s official position was that marijuana was a dangerous substance that should be banned.

"There was an increasing awkwardness," Rosenthal said. "It was becoming increasingly hard to write intelligently about the evolution that's

going on in the country without taking a stand."

If one thing tipped the scales for the *Times*, it was the new model of legalization in Colorado. "It's not like they just took giant bushels of pot and threw them on the street," Rosenthal said. "The experiment is working."

The White House's official response to the *Times* editorial—that "marijuana legalization is not the silver-bullet solution"—didn't carry much weight with Rosenthal, who noted: "We never said it was a silver bullet...I don't even know what that means: Silver bullets kill things. The Office

of National Drug Control Policy is required by law to attack any call for the legalization of drugs—so we threw something in front of a robot, and the robot responded."

Rosenthal dismissed the White House assertion that 9 percent of users become addicted to marijuana. "A ridiculously low number," he pointed out. "Look at the numbers for alcohol; look at the numbers for nicotine." He also took issue with the charge that middle-school kids who smoke pot are more likely to get D's than A's. "No shit," he said. "They ignore the fact that the only thing that's going to stop a 13-year-old from smoking pot to the point where they flunk out of school is his parents—not the federal government."

The *Times*'s landmark editorial was an introduction to a six-part series on marijuana issues. In part two, editorial-board member Jesse Wegman wrote: "As pioneers in legalization, [Colorado and Washington] should set a further example by providing relief to people convicted of crimes that are no longer crimes, including overturning convictions." The *New York Times* now shares a responsibility to advocate for the release of those imprisoned for nonviolent marijuana crimes.

When asked about changes to the *Times*'s corporate policy of drug-testing new employees, Rosenthal said that it's up to the company to decide, but that the publisher, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., agreed with the editorial. Rosenthal marveled to *High Times*, "'Weed' today surpassed 'marijuana' as a search term on Google"—yet another indication of our rapidly changing times.

And so we look forward to the new era of marijuana-related journalism from the one of the country's most important newspapers. In light of her recent editorial decision, the Gray Lady appears to have a bright green future. *Mary Jane Gibson*



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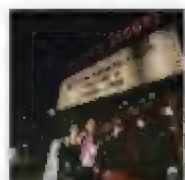
Supersonic '70s

The Emerald City's forgotten funk and soul.

Light in the Attic has returned to the Emerald City for the second installment of its *Wheedle's Groove* survey of soul music, this time focusing on locally produced funk, boogie and modern soul records from 1972 to 1987. The results are mixed, but the overall experience of this double-LP package works in ways that the individual tracks can't match.

The well-researched and photo-packed liner notes are important here, because they illustrate the struggles of the various groups, whether they were established acts adapting to changes in taste and technology or young players jumping in with a fresh style. Unfortunately, a lot of the songs don't hold up without this context, and only a die-hard collector is going to be feeling most of this material. For example, I hope I never again have to hear "Kingdome" by the fun-loving former Seattle Mariner Lenny Randle. However, the tale of Randle recording the song with his 10-year-old niece during a players' strike, and then keeping a working band touring even as he continued to play major-league baseball, deserves to be a movie!

That being said, there are some definite gems on display here. Epicentre's "Get Off the Phone" creates the instant smile of a summer family-reunion picnic jam. "Love One Another" by Fredrick Robinson III is tough, deep gospel funk from a soulful but troubled man. "Holding On" by Unfinished Business has a nice, airy jazz groove that is only slightly spoiled by the shaky backup vocals. Listeners who gravitate toward disco might find more to their liking here, but with tighter editing, *Wheedle's Groove Volume II* could have made an excellent single-album compilation instead of this spotty double. *Robert Dyrenforth*



Various Artists

Wheedle's Groove: Seattle Funk, Modern Soul & Boogie: Volume II, 1972-1987

(Light in the Attic)

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Can't Love

Turn to Crime
(Old Flame Records)

➤ This album sounds like it was recorded by people playing very loudly in a small, moist cellar. An analog synthesizer's cool, long drone gives way to a jangly anthem with huge distorted drums. My favorite is the melancholy "Pinebox," a stadium-rock weeper like Sabbath's "Changes" with a little TV on

the Radio thrown in. Then the album gets meaner and all about distorted guitar, with two long savage psych jams. Would I put this on if I was hanging out with a couple of friends after midnight and we wanted to smoke, drink and talk a little more before we went home? Yes, I would. *Patrick Hambrecht*



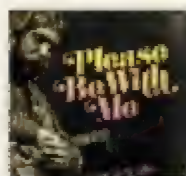
Broken Ankles EP

Girl Talk and Freeway
(Datpiff)

➤ *Broken Ankles* is the first collaboration by Girl Talk and Freeway, two Pennsylvania-based artists. It's the first Girl Talk release since 2010's *All Day*, featuring six tracks of fresh beats and samples tracked with hip-hop vocals from Freeway. "Tolerated," the first single and official video,

also features Waka Flocka Flame. Additional guest artists include Jadakiss on "I Can Hear Sweat" and Young Chris on "Tell Me Yeah," whose chorus shouts out to the high culture, asking: "Lil *mami*, what you smoking?" For a chance to answer the shout-out, check out Girl Talk live! *Cori Kidney*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Please Be With Me

Galadrielle Allman
(Spiegel & Grau)

➤ A single note played by slide guitarist Duane Allman peerlessly vibrated with soul and light. His daughter Galadrielle, who was 2 years old when Duane died in a motorcycle accident in 1971, has published a bio of the seminal rocker. But *Please Be With Me* is no tearjerker: Galadrielle is too skilled

a storyteller to waste her familial access on selling treacle. This is an intimate recounting of the Allman Brothers—a band calling it quits this year after 45 solar cycles of improvisational, blue-noted glory. Galadrielle carries her father's soulfulness like a lamp, guiding her forward. *Michael Simmons*



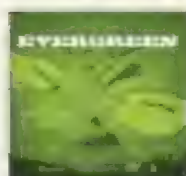
Dear Nobody: The True Diary of Mary Rose

Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain
(Sourcebooks Fire)

➤ From the authors of *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk* comes a gripping new book, the edited diary of a young girl suffering from cystic fibrosis and questionable parenting. But while *Please Kill Me* offered up the oral history of punk rock, *Dear Nobody: The True*

Diary of Mary Rose reads more like *The Monster at the End of This Book*; Mary Rose didn't see her 20s. All prospective actors should consider using this book as a character study: Nothing so heartbreaking and true has been put to paper since Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. *Rebekah Harris*

DVD RECOMMENDATIONS



Evergreen: The Road to Legalization

Riley Morton & Nils Cowan
(First Run Features)

➤ *Evergreen*, an inside look at the fight to pass I-502 in Washington, follows Alison Holcomb and other key players—including genial travel writer Rick Steves—on the statewide stump to rally support for the initiative. They meet with fierce opposition from med-pot supporters who oppose the

provision to set the blood-THC level for impaired driving at 5 ng, believing that it could render them vulnerable to DUI charges. *Evergreen* skillfully captures the tension and drama in this normally tranquil community, as well as the historic vote to legalize weed in Washington. *Mary Jane Gibson*

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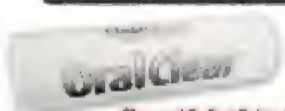


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MUNCHIES

Ganja Goddess Hot Buttered Rum

Stave off the chill with tasty swill.

Hot buttered rum is the perfect winter nightcap, and infusing it with cannabis takes it to a holy level of satisfaction. The slight green flavor plays off the other spices, creating an olfactory sensation that you'll want to serve up again and again. Use a slow cooker to infuse all the flavors and preserve the integrity of the ganja.

This month, we're not only featuring a killer recipe, but also the highly effective butter-making techniques of that dynamic duo, Heather and Aaron of Ganja Goddess.

Heather and Aaron make cannabutter and edibles for family members, who are medical patients in Oregon

with ailments ranging from back conditions that have required multiple surgeries, to the residual effects of painful injuries due to car wrecks, to debilitating insomnia.

The butter recipe calls for two pounds of ganja, and this is a good time of year to make it, given the flood of freshly-cured outdoor harvests. The recipe also calls for lecithin, which is optional, but it's believed to help bind the elements and increase potency. Heather and Aaron suggest that you follow the ganja/butter ratio to a T. It's tried and true, backed by plenty of anecdotal evidence that says it works.

The hot-buttered-rum recipe, on the other hand, calls for only a fraction of the butter that you'll make. Save the creamy leftovers for all your holiday (and day-to-day!) baking needs, and you'll be properly medicated for weeks to come. Make holiday spritz cookies or a savory gravy, melt it over pasta, or spread it on toast. Whatever your fancy, you'll have plenty of super-psychoactive butter to work with—and a mug of stony hot buttered rum for further inspiration. *Mary Ought Six*

POT BUTTERED RUM

Ganja Goddess Butter

2 lbs. ganja (preferably bud or quality trim)

2½ lbs. salted butter

1 tbsp. lecithin (optional)

Hot Buttered Rum

½ cup Ganja Goddess butter

2 cups packed dark brown sugar

8 cups hot water

3 cinnamon sticks

5 whole cloves

¼ tsp. fresh grated nutmeg

1 pinch salt

2 cups dark rum

Whipped cream and cinnamon sprinkles to top

Set aside an hour and fifteen minutes to make the Ganja Goddess butter. Begin by bringing the butter and lecithin to a melting point at low-medium heat. Add the ground

ganja. Stir consistently every few minutes for an hour, then turn off the heat and strain into your containers (using a filter, preferably). Now you have a batch of Ganja Goddess butter ready to go.

In a five-quart slow cooker, combine a half-cup of Ganja Goddess butter, brown sugar, hot water, cinnamon sticks, cloves, nutmeg and salt. Cover and let cook over low heat for five hours. Open the cooker and add rum. Serve in eight heated mugs. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon, and you're ready for a cozy, relaxing and pain-free night with your most high-minded friends. *Stones 8.*

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- 1 tablespoon/15 mL of sunflower lecithin**

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(Bubblegum)
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-Newark, DE

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices finished December below their previous month's average. The US Price and Kind indices dropped for the second straight month, with Kind hitting a new year-low of \$362 (\$17 off its year-to-date average). The Mids and Schwag indices both finished \$3 below their year-to-date averages.

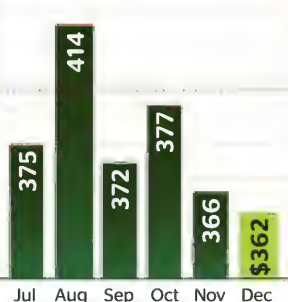
US Price Index

YTD Average: \$302



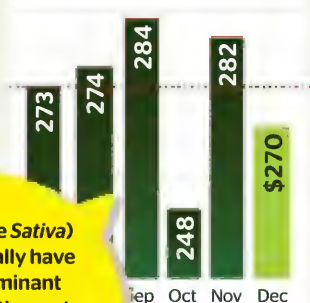
Kind Index

YTD Average: \$379



Mids Index

YTD Average: \$273



Schwag Index

YTD Average: \$102



(Mid-Range Sativa)
"We generally have sativa-dominant hybrids with great scent, no seeds and an overall good burn."
-La Libertad, El Salvador

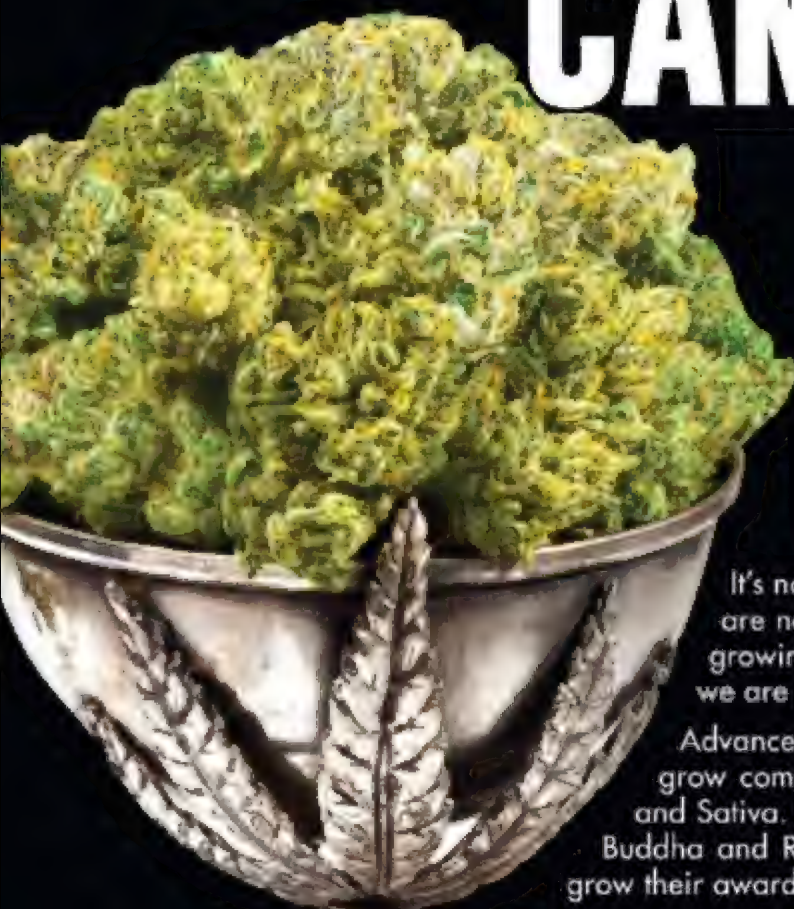
TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

| STATE | CITY | STRAIN | PRICE |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Arizona | Phoenix | Girl Scout Cookies | \$350 |
| Arkansas | Russellville | Kush | 300 |
| California | Los Angeles | Tahoe OG | 280 |
| Colorado | Denver | Skywalker Kush | 280 |
| Delaware | Newark | Bubblegum | 350 |
| Florida | Gainesville | Juicy Fruit | 300 |
| Georgia | Atlanta | Girl Scout Cookies | 280 |
| Illinois | Chicago | Chem Dog | 280 |
| Kansas | Shawnee Mission | Jedi Kush | 300 |
| Kentucky | Louisville | Master Kush | 300 |
| Louisiana | Baton Rouge | Sour Diesel | 350 |
| Maine | Kennebunk | Girl Scout Cookies | 220 |
| Massachusetts | Boston | SFV OG Kush | 260 |
| Michigan | Traverse City | Skywalker OG | 260 |
| Minnesota | Minneapolis Winona | Pineapple Kush Chocolate Chunk | 300 280 |
| Missouri | Springfield | Grand Daddy Purps | 275 |
| Montana | Kalispell | White Widow | 200 |
| New Hampshire | Manchester | Sweet Tooth | 260 |
| New Jersey | Hoboken | Strawberry Cough | 400 |
| New Mexico | Santa Fe | NYC Diesel | 325 |
| New York | Brooklyn New York | Blue Dream Kosher Kush | 350 360 |
| Ohio | Columbus | Kandy Kush | 260 |
| Oregon | Portland | Cheese | 200 |
| Pennsylvania | Philadelphia | Grape Ape | 300 |
| Rhode Island | Newport | Afghani Kush | 275 |
| South Carolina | Orangeburg | Jack Herer | 380 |
| Tennessee | Dickson | Mids | 240 |
| Texas | Waco | Cheese | 350 |
| Virginia | Richmond | Purple Urkel | 300 |
| Washington | Seattle | Blue Dream | 200 |
| Wisconsin | Milwaukee | Sour Diesel | 360 |
| INTERNATIONAL | | | |
| Argentina | Buenos Aires | Outdoor | \$180 |
| Canada | Calgary Edmonton | Blueberry Cheese Bubba Kush | C\$200 C\$180 |
| El Salvador | La Libertad | Mid-Range Sativa | \$250 |
| Scotland | Glasgow | Skunk | £200 |

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(Skunk)
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-Glasgow, Scotland

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- High Times Medical Cannabis Cup San Francisco
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- High Times US Cannabis Cup Seattle
- Kush Cup
- Spannabis
- 43th Annual Hash Bash
- HempCon.
- Highway 420 Anti-Prohibition Rally
- Expocannabis Sur
- Cannabizz
- Nimbin MardiGrass
- Global Marijuana March
- Emerald Empire Hempfest
- Olympia Hempfest
- Hanfparade
- Hempfest Seattle
- Cannatrade
- Expogrow
- Boston Freedom Rally
- Cultiva Hanfmesse
- Cannafest
- Treating Yourself Expo
- Secret Cup
- Grow Med
- 707 Cup
- The 16th Annual Marijuana Concert

"I would not be where I am today - as far as quality - if it wouldn't have been for Advanced - honestly"

— Mr. Spliff of TGA Seeds, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup WINNERS

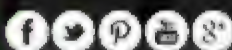
"I tried many other brands and they never won a cup for me until I started using Advanced Nutrients. Now I rely on their entire line to win cup after cup"

— Rocky, Champs Cup WINNER

CAUGHT ON CAMERA:

See not one, not two, not three, but FOUR different Cannabis Cup WINNERS praise Advanced Nutrients and share their favorite products in this "behind the scenes" video from Los Angeles High Times Medical Cup 2013:

ChampionGrowersUseAdvanced.com



Ask your local hydroponic retailer about what Advanced Nutrients can do for your garden today! →



Advanced Nutrients

Raising the Bud Weights... and Reputations... of Top Growers



Hot Products

What's new for cannabis cultivators and connoisseurs.

1 Herbalize It

\$729

herbalizer.com

A new era in high-end vaporizer technology has begun with the arrival of the **Herbalizer**, a next-gen device that outperforms the famed Volcano in ease of use, versatility and more. This innovative machine, which works with a whip or balloon, was expertly designed and manufactured in the USA with precise temperature controls and a sleek, compact and effective profile.

2 Full Clip

\$16.99

hbiinternational.com

The most popular lighter company in Europe takes ignition to the next level with the new **Clipper Electric Eco Lighter**. A USB charger keeps it working for up to five days of heavy use, with no butane or flame involved—which means the heating element and wind guard will perform in almost any conditions. A removable packing tool and LED light-charge indicator further ensure that you'll have no troubles.

3 Perfect pH

Prices vary

advancednutrients.com

The plant scientists at Advanced Nutrients have created a product that will change how you feed your plants: **pH Perfect Connoisseur** is a two-part, super-premium nutrient system that helps plants flower faster by improving their ability to absorb the foods they need to thrive. It's specially formulated with chelated nutrients and micronutes and works in soil and hydroponic applications.

4 Tuff Puff

\$100

thedabstation.com

Finally, someone's made a vape pen that hits like a dab rig! The **Smo King Tuff Pen** features not one but two atomizers, with the dual action providing fuller flavor and stronger pulls. The stainless-steel unit is self-cleaning. It's not the stealthiest pen we've tried, but it's definitely durable and heavy-hitting. It's even powerful enough to work as a battery-powered nail, with rig adapters available for \$40.



WARNING: CANNABIS IS AN ACCUMULATOR PLANT ...

Did you know Cannabis was used at the Chernobyl site to help pull radioactive contaminants out of the soil?

They used Cannabis for soil remediation because it's an accumulator plant that absorbs nearly everything in its environment. While soil remediation sounds great, the fact is, the cannabis plants were now highly radioactive and had to be disposed of properly as well.

COULD YOU IMAGINE A PATIENT SMOKING RADIOACTIVE WEED?

It's a scary thought, isn't it? In short, cannabis accumulates everything in its environment—including potential toxins—and retains them even after harvest.

In other words, whatever your plants accumulated while growing—you are now smoking. That's why you need to know how to protect yourself and your patients from potential medical marijuana toxicity.

The entire story, along with many other little-known, yet vitally important facts are revealed in a new Bulgarian Academy of Sciences white paper titled:

**"ELIMINATING HEAVY METAL TOXICITY IN MEDICAL MARIJUANA, TO PRODUCE PATIENTS' MEDICINE SAFER THAN DRINKING WATER...
... WHILE RAISING BUD WEIGHT, THC AND CANNABINOIDS."**

The author of the white paper, Julian Karadjov, PhD, reveals facts medical marijuana growers absolutely **MUST** know. Here are just a few ...

- The little-known fact that makes Cannabis totally different than other plants and why not knowing this can endanger the lives of your patients!

- Why the nutrients you feed your plants could actually be turning them toxic (make sure you check your bloom boosters for this one common ingredient that could be toxic)

- Exactly which heavy metals are toxic and how to protect your patients from ingesting them (There are some heavy metals that are completely harmless. Get the complete list inside)

- Surprising plant tissue sample results of Berlin, Hash Plant, and White Rhino strains of medical marijuana (goes completely against what most growers think is needed to maximize size, weight and potency!)

- The TRUTH about so-called "Pharmaceutical Grade" salts and chelates

- Why you can't trust regulators and other government "watch dogs" to make sure the hydroponics nutrients you feed your plants are safe

- The 2 biggest MYTHS about natural and synthetic chelators and their role in toxic metal absorption

- How to guarantee—with 100% confidence—that your medical marijuana is a pure and harmless as filtered drinking water!

- How the University of Mississippi achieved 21% more yield from their cannabis plants with one simple change to their feeding program

- How to nearly DOUBLE the amount of THC and other cannabinoids your plants produce the very next run you start (new test results from Hedron Analytical Inc.)

- As Seen On TV: the dangers of Medical Marijuana Cadmium poisoning (and how to help your patients completely avoid this risk!)

And there's more too ... The dangers of "home brew" hydroponics nutrient formulations ... African Marijuana cadmium dangers ... plus other little-known facts most growers never hear about.

The bottom line is: if you grow medical marijuana and care about the safety of your patients at all (or you use marijuana yourself) then you must read this white paper.

It's free to access and available online. Simply visit:

AdvancedNutrients.com/HeavyMetal

to download your copy today



Advanced Nutrients

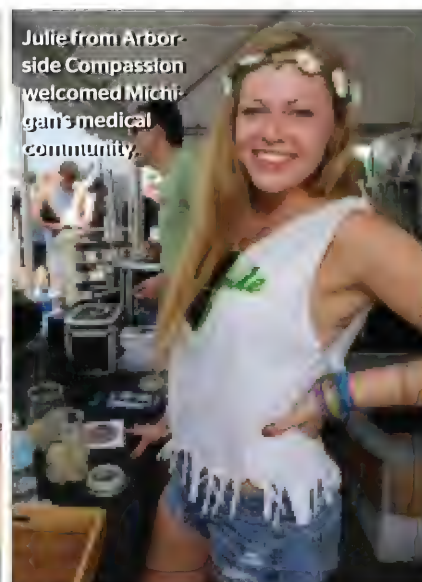
Raising the Bud Weights... and Reputations... of Top Growers



Wyclef Jean smoked up, then smoked the stoner hordes!



Vader Extracts served up super dabs for Cup-goers.



Julie from Arbor-side Compassion welcomed Michigan's medical community.

Big, Big Love

High Times returned to the Great Lakes State for its second Medical Cannabis Cup there. Michigan's marijuana community rolled out the green carpet in a huge way!

Story & Photos by Samantha Nicholas



The Saturday night concert had the crowd raising their joints to Wyclef.

All weekend long, the skies threatened. And just before the gates opened for the High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in Michigan, a morning thunderstorm rumbled by just a few miles north of the Auto City Speedway in Clio, where the event was being held.

But the summer sun won out, for the most part, showing up hot and heavy on both days—that is, until late Sunday afternoon, when heavy winds and rain zeroed in on the festivities, chasing Cup-goers to their cars and forcing vendors to pack up early. The storm hit the Cannabis Cup stage hard as well, necessitating the cancellation of the awards ceremony for the first time ever.

Midsummer thunderstorms in Great Lakes country are hardly unusual; sky-high humidity isn't either. But a Cannabis Cup in the US heartland is.

At this point in time, there are only four states with rock-solid pot laws

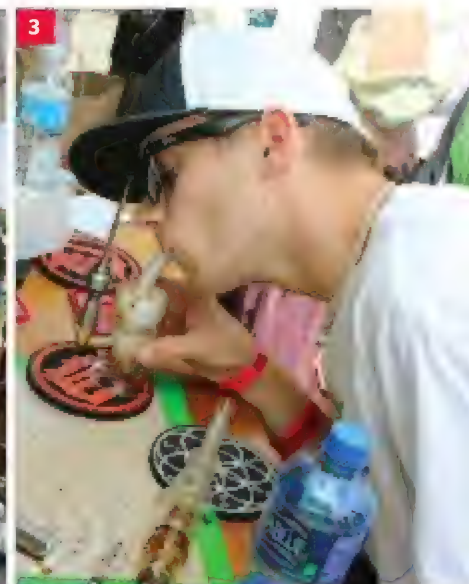
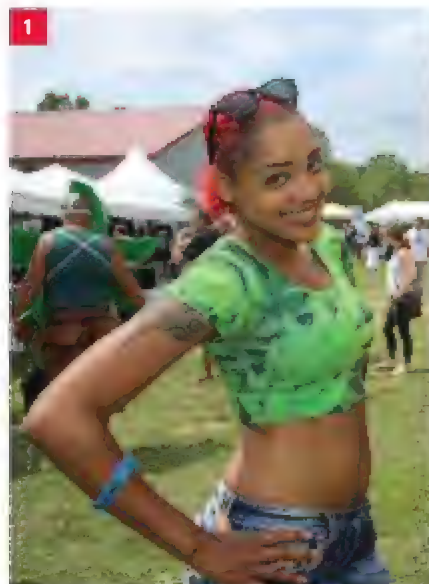
on the books, medical or recreational, that provide High Times with the legal backing to stage a Cannabis Cup. Colorado and Washington, which cleared the way for legal adult recreational use, are obvious choices; and California, which okayed the medical use of cannabis nearly two decades ago, has hosted eight Cups.

Michigan makes the list, too. In 2008, the state's voters passed a sweeping medical marijuana bill, which enabled hundreds of dispensaries to open and provide medicine. It also made the Great Lakes State an obvious choice for a Cup.

Three years ago, Detroit was chosen as the host site, a goodwill gesture aimed at boosting the economy of a city that desperately needs it. But as the proverb reminds us, no good deed goes unpunished: Detroit Metro police stalked the event throughout the weekend and prohibited the open display of cannabis. Despite the harassment,



Bikini-clad stoners beat the heat.



The High Times staff was thanked profusely for bringing the Cup back to Michigan, and local media unabashedly promoted the event prior to the doors opening and throughout the weekend.

- 1) Thematic attire was appreciated, not required.
- 2) Smoke City offered an arsenal of smoking weapons.
- 3) An array of concentrates was available for dabbers.
- 4) Body-painted pot celebrants were a huge hit—for some reason.
- 5) Elise McDonough, author of *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook*, leads the edibles seminar.

Cannabis Cups were awarded and people generally had a good time, but High Times postponed an immediate return.

Although Michigan's medical marijuana initiative passed in the 2008 election with an overwhelming 63 percent of the vote, State Attorney General Bill Schuette, elected in 2010, has tried his best to eviscerate the law. As Larry Gabriel reported in the *Detroit Metro Times*, Schuette "has been a holy terror, ripping away at any interpretation of the law that was not strictly set out in writing. The attorney general's office has joined in county prosecutions against medical marijuana defendants and shut down dispensaries across the state. He has intimidated patients, caretakers, doctors, municipalities, police and county prosecutors by declaring that federal marijuana law



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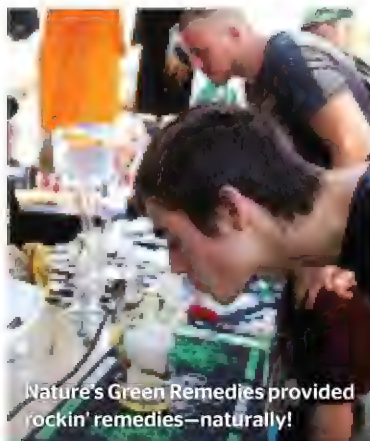
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supersedes state law.”

In 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that dispensaries were illegal in a 4-1 ruling. But some cities continued to offer licenses, and many dispensaries did not refrain from advertising their address and hours online. This year, the pendulum seems to be swinging back. The State House of Representatives has approved bills that would allow for the return of regulated dispensaries and expand the definition of usable marijuana to include edible and topical products. And considerable headway is being made in decriminalizing marijuana altogether. Michigan was back on the Cannabis Cup map.

Nevertheless, the decision was not made without a bit of trepidation. What would the reception be like this time? Would High Times face active opposition to the event, as it had back in 2011?

Such fears were quickly allayed. Never before had the Cannabis Cup received such a warm welcome. The High Times staff was thanked profusely for bringing the Cup back to Michigan, and local media unabashedly promoted the event prior to the doors opening and throughout the weekend. The state's activist community was out in full force, featuring

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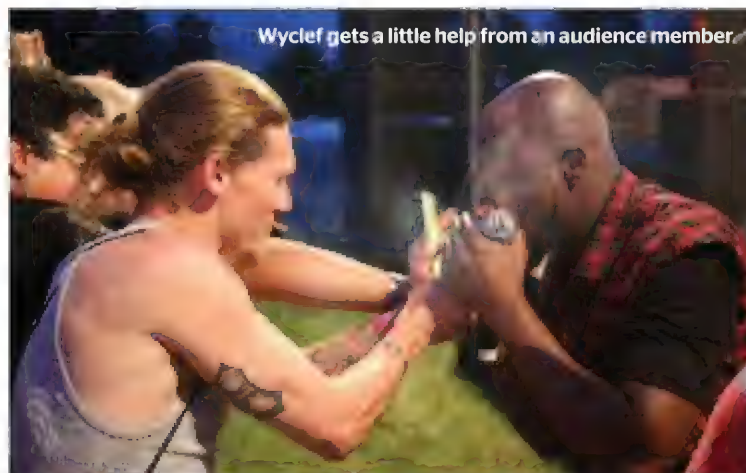
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HIGH TIMES 2013 Winner Best Standard Pen

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Wyclef gets a little help from an audience member



Chuck Ream, honored for a lifetime of activism, posed with a trophy pipe made by Puff Danny and Drew Kups.

stalwarts like Charmie Gholson, Jamie Lowell, Robin Schneider, Rick Thompson and Josey Scoggins, all of whom head up cannabis-advocacy organizations.

Repeatedly, the question was asked: "Why Clio?" Fair question. The suburb of Flint has a population of only 2,600—obviously not a hot spot for trade expos, pot-themed or otherwise. But while other municipalities blanched at the thought of a cannabis event within their city limits, Clio gave the Cannabis Cup an unqualified thumbs-up—and the results were beyond gratifying.

About 6,000 people filed into the Auto City Speedway for the Cup. The venue, which normally hosts stock-car races, figure-eight events and "maximum destruction" spectacles, was transformed into a marijuana medication area replete with compassion

clubs, pipe-makers and cultivation companies taking up residence on the racetrack infield.

Saturday night's headliner was Wyclef Jean, who performed on a stage erected just inside the track oval, allowing Cup-goers to experience a rousing, up-close, pro-pot performance. Toward the end of his set, Wyclef leaped into the crowd, toked off the joints of audience members and led the high-energy multitude in a jump-up-and-down rendition of "Sweetest Girl (Dollar Bill)."

Sunday's dripping humidity did little to deter the turnout, but the aforementioned rain did manage to end the Cup early. Chuck Ream, one of the state's most revered activists, was scheduled to receive the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cup ceremonies. Instead, he gave an eloquent acceptance

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speech in the luxury skybox of the racetrack.

Overnight, Michigan was whipped by the damaging storms that struck statewide, but the aftermath of the Cup was nothing but sunny, as media reports again lauded the Cup's success and the model behavior of attendees.

It's safe to say that the Cannabis Cup is back for good in Michigan. 🌿

Cannabis Cup Results

Indica

1st Place: Paris OG, Oasis Medical Seeds
2nd Place: Alien Dawg F2, Herbal Solutions
3rd Place: Grape OX, Herban Legendz LLC

Sativa

1st Place: Catfish, Arborside Compassion
2nd Place: Ghost Train Haze #1, Organibliss
3rd Place: MelonGum, We Grow Education and Collective Centers

Hybrid

1st Place: Gorilla Glue,

Herbal Solutions

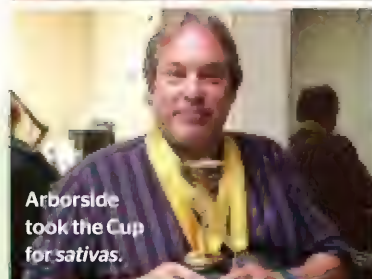
2nd Place: Death Star, Pure West Compassion Club
3rd Place: Veganic Candyland, Kushman Veganics for Buds & Roses

Concentrate

1st Place: Raskal's Lemon, Mr. B's Extracts
2nd Place: Kosher Kush Dewaxed, 710 Savant
3rd Place: Candy Jack Shatter, Oasis Medical/Vader Extracts/Dab Vader



Skies darkened at 4:20, but spirits remained high.



Arborside took the Cup for sativas.



Kim impersonated our green Rosie the Riveter.

Non-Solvent Hash

1st Place: Jedi Kush Ice Wax, NLG
2nd Place: HeadCandy Kush Hash, Arborside Compassion
3rd Place: Northern Hash Plant Hash, New World Seeds Resource Center

Edibles

1st Place: Captain Kirk's Lime in the Coconut, DepoTown
2nd Place: Dark

Chocolate Mint Quad Chunk, Metro Detroit Compassion Club Inc./Special FX Labs
3rd Place: Arborside Delights Gorilla Paw, Arborside Compassion

CBD

Flowers: Cannatonic, Detroit Nutrient Company/IDK Farms
Concentrates: Concentrated Hemp Oil CBD, Canna Vest/

Michigan Hemp Company

Edibles: Flower of Life Extract CBD Pills w/ Vernon Phillips, MTG

Best Booth

1st Place: Vader Extracts
2nd Place: DabStix
3rd Place: Pure West Compassion Club

Best Product

1st Place: DabStix
2nd Place: Dabkins

3rd Place: Terpp Extractors

Best Glass

1st Place: Nexus Glass,
2nd Place: Torched Glass Art
3rd Place: Silika Double Recycler, Silika Glass

Watch high times.com/ChuckReam for his speech.





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The 2014 Global

It's that special time of year when the buds begin to pile up as outdoor harvests come down, and indoor nugs (like this pound of Chocolope) really start to flow.

Harvest Report

Compiled by the *High Times* Cultivation Department and Correspondents

California

As we await 2016 and the legalization of marijuana in California, we find that the impact of legal-use states like Colorado and Washington is already having a profound effect on the cannabis industry on the West Coast—both the medical side and the black market. Even the outdoor growers of NorCal have felt the crunch on their usually untouchable price points, going from \$1,800 to \$2,000 per pound down to \$1,400 to \$1,600.

That being said, Cali still boasts the largest pot production of any state in the US, to match the biggest population of marijuana enthusiasts in the country. This year, the outdoor harvests are projected to be among the biggest of all time. New strains introduced to the outdoor scene a few years back (Blue Dream, XJ-13, Jah Goo, etc.) have overtaken some of the more traditional favorites in the marketplace. The *sativas*, obviously, do very well given the longer outdoor-grow season, producing big yields not easily achieved indoors.

In SoCal, the OG scene has gotten out of control. Almost every new strain appearing in California's dispensaries has some OG genetics in the mix, not to mention the myriad (and suspect) OG "phenotypes" that keep popping up throughout the state. Still, there's no arguing with the potency, which regularly reaches the mid-20s in THC percentage, or the flavor, with terpenoid profiles from lab tests showing especially tall spikes in limonene, which creates that famously mouth-watering (and borderline addictive) citrus-and-diesel-fuel taste.

Overall, Cali breeds some of the best flowers on Earth. From Girl Scout Cookies to the endless purple varieties to the new Gorilla Glue, the growers in the Golden State are relentless. Get ready, world, because in 18 months cannabis will be legal here, and California can be expected to reclaim its rightful place as the epicenter of weed in the US. (With apologies to Colorado, but we'll still be visiting during ski season) *Nico Escandido*

Colorado has a nice mix of indoor and outdoor grows.



Exotic sativas like the Durban, Nigerian and Thai are gaining a following among seasoned pot palates looking for a change.



Outdoor grows in CO come down earlier than in CA, due to elevation and climate.

Colorado

With the legalization of recreational use taking effect in January 2014, Colorado has become a mecca for cannabis tourists as well as reefer refugees fleeing their oppressive states for the relative freedom of a regulated industry. The results can be seen in cities like Denver, where dispensaries and retail stores dot the landscape, industrial areas are being revitalized as cultivation centers, and 420-friendly tours and hotels are sprouting up to serve the emerging market.

Ancillary businesses are feeling the boost, too. Grow shops are thriving and expanding into warehouse-sized megastores. Legal advisors, security details and accounting services all prove that catering to cannabis connoisseurs can be big business.

Cultivation centers are certainly increasing in size, as I documented in "The Indoor Acre" (Aug. '14), my visit to Gaia Plant Based Medicine's 44,000-square-foot-plus facility. Some forward-thinking producers such as River Rock are counting on greenhouses supplemented with lighting to cut down the costs per gram produced significantly without compromising the quality of the finished product.

As for strains, the old stalwarts and mainstays are constantly in demand. A wide variety of Kush phenotypes remain popular, and so do the Cough, Flo and Ghost Train Haze. But exotic *sativas* like the Durban, Nigerian and Thai are gaining a following among seasoned pot palates looking for a change from the same-old, same-old.

New regulations on the production of concentrates have roiled that part of the industry in Colorado, forcing extract artists to scramble in order to comply. Fully assembled closed-loop systems housed in special chambers, such as those available from Extract Outfitters (starting at \$60,000), provide safety and security. Further experiments with the production of "holy water" and "live resin" have expanded the bounds of terpene preservation and concentrate cleanliness, showing that when it comes to 21st-century modes of pot consumption, Colorado continues to lead the way. *Danny Danko*



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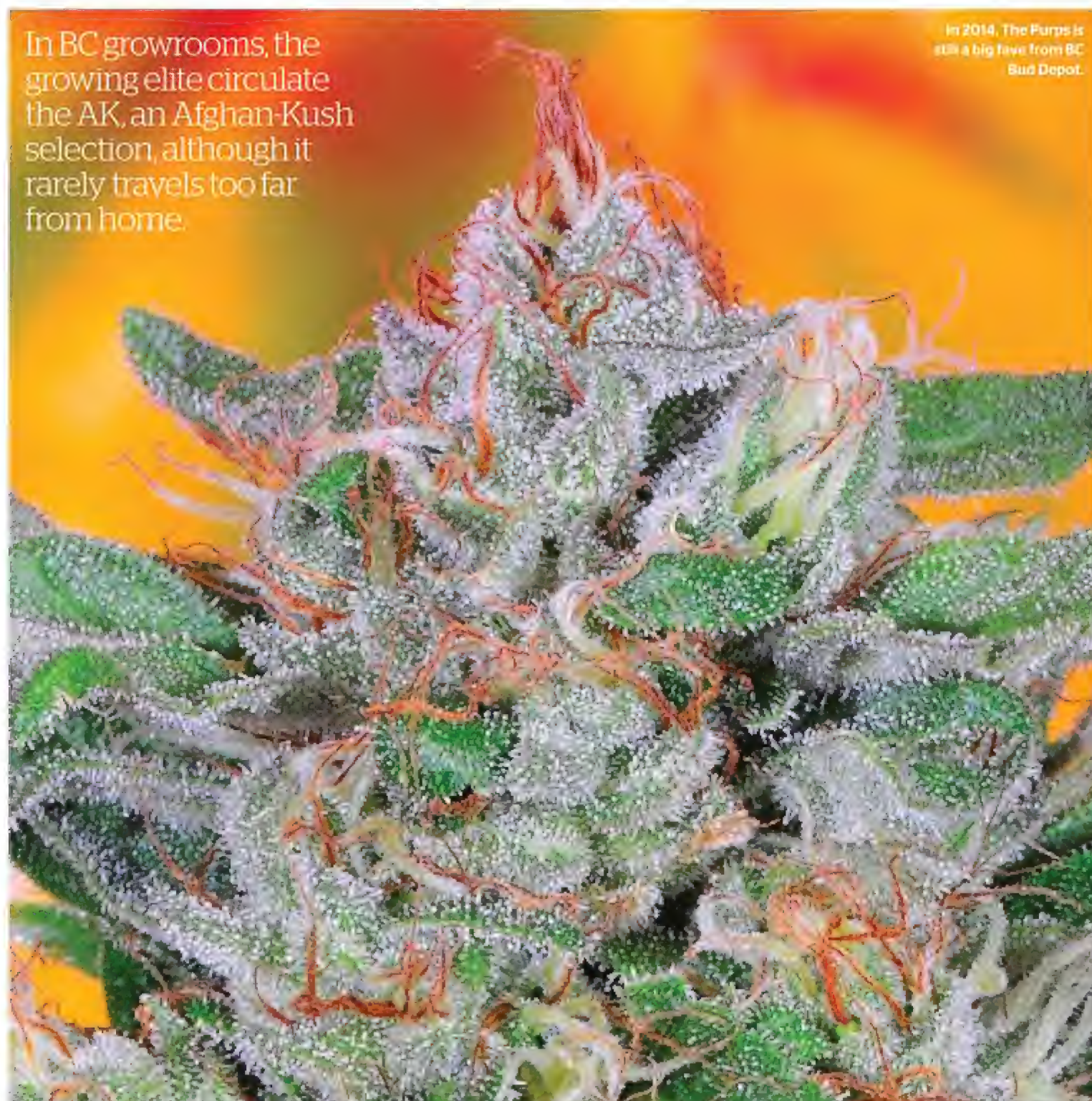
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In BC growrooms, the growing elite circulate the AK, an Afghan-Kush selection, although it rarely travels too far from home.

In 2014, The Purps is still a big fave from BC Bud Depot.

British Columbia, Canada

In Western Canada, and British Columbia in particular, there's a continued focus by indoor growers on strains that offer strong potency levels—a trend that is now pronounced on the rapidly evolving North American medicinal and recreational cannabis scene. Thanks to prohibition winding down, it's no longer a sellers' market, which means there's plenty of competition—so the par level for quality continues to get higher inland of BC as well.

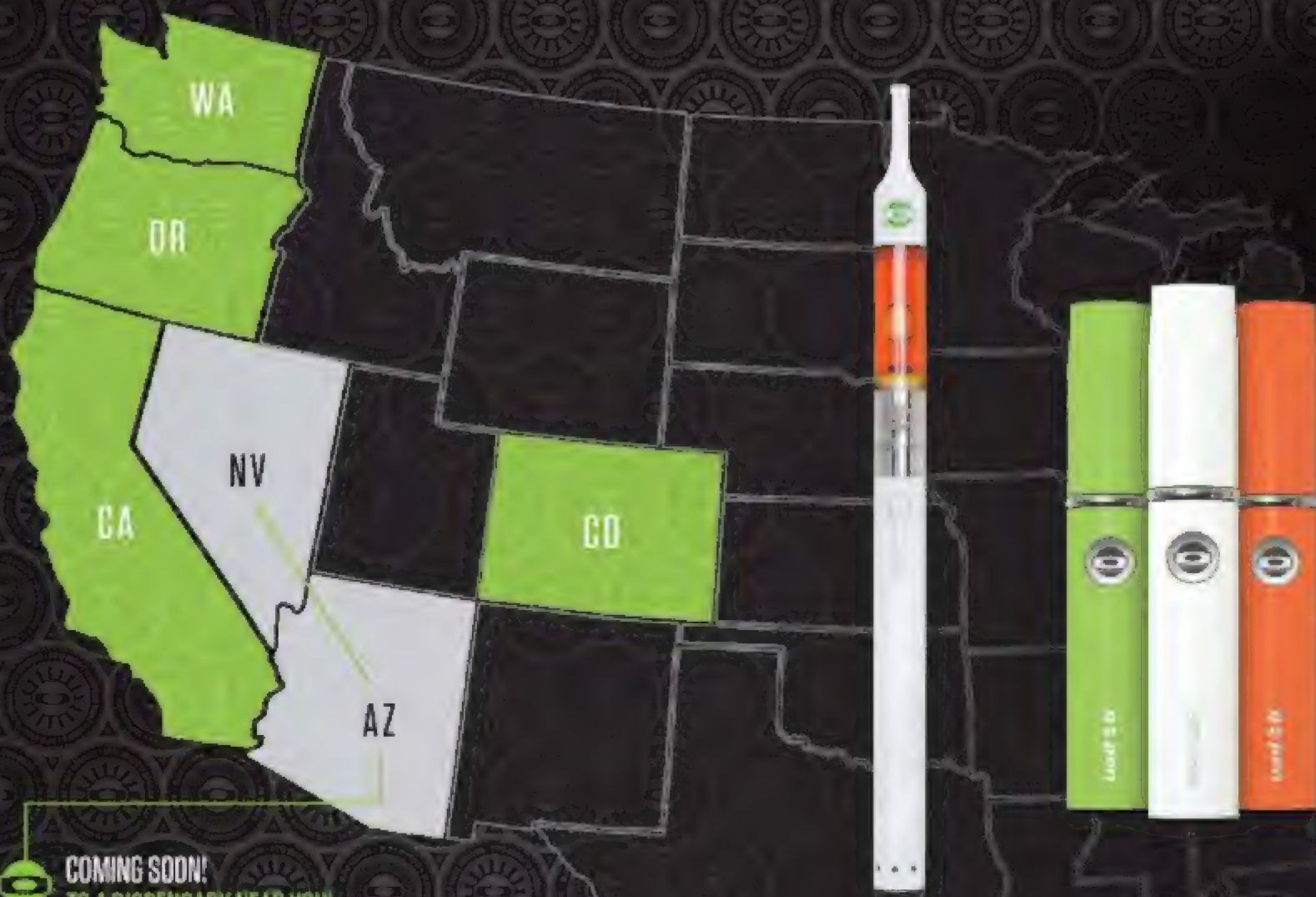
Outdoor growing has been evolving too, as licensed growers take advantage of professional, high-security greenhouse operations. Full sun and a virtually unlimited ceiling to grow big means considerably less costs for growers and less draw on the power grid, too. This could be the future of Canadian-regulated bud production.

In BC growrooms, the growing elite circulate the AK, an Afghan-Kush selection, although it rarely travels too far from

home thanks to the delicious, fruity hash flavor that it packs in its dense, purple-blue nugs silvery with resin (and which has been known to test at around 24 percent THC). This fall, expect outdoor harvests to offer mainstays like Pink Kush, Early Purple Kush and Vietnam Black, which has been exerting some influence on the BC gene pool of late. Other reliable strains like the Island Sweet Skunk, Kodiak and Time Warp maintain their popularity with Canadian outdoor growers.

Indoor growrooms are producing favorites such as OG Kush and Zen Hash Plant, a clone-only legend that's been reworked with an injection of New York Sour Diesel genetics for some added vigor. And, of course, there's Jack Herer, which remains a huge favorite in these parts. This strain was a big contributor in the development of Willie Nelson, a Cup-winning *sativa* that is popular just south of us on the West Coast of the United States. *Erik Blksa*

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OG Kush II

The “Beast Coast” continues to represent with strong strains like the many Chem Dog phenotypes, Strawberry Cough and Mass Super Skunk.



New England

Though it's generally not the first place that comes to mind when people think of marijuana, New England has a long history of progressive views on the subject and an even longer history of people growing and smoking their own pot, regardless of the government's views on its legality. Since July 2013, when New Hampshire passed a medical marijuana bill, all six New England states have favorable cannabis laws on the books. Maine and Rhode Island have been the vanguard, with caregivers in both those states actively producing pot for their patients, but Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut are making great strides in their acceptance that the marijuana industry is here to stay.

The “Beast Coast” continues to represent with strong strains like the many Chem Dog phenotypes, Strawberry Cough and Mass Super Skunk. New varieties popping up from elsewhere, such as Girl Scout Cookies and Gorilla Glue #4, are adding to the many flavors already available here. Outdoor growers have

learned over the years to extend their seasons using cold frames early in the spring and greenhouses in the summer and fall, and light-deprivation techniques from the West Coast are finally catching on here as well.

Activists in New England congregate every September in Boston Common for the Freedom Rally, and 2014 was the second year in a row that the popular event—free to the public—expanded into a two-day pro-pot celebration featuring speakers, bands and booths. All over the region, marijuana enthusiasts are scrambling to keep up with changes to their local laws, and new businesses are forming to fulfill the demand for more cannabis. Cultivation schools, grow consultants and dispensaries all compete for the attention of patients looking for clean, potent meds. The future looks bright for New England as it continues to advance toward the end of marijuana prohibition and the creation of a regional cannabis industry that will thrive for years to come. *Danny Danko*

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New York City

The great state of New York is catching up—at last—to the rest of the progressive eastern states, finally recognizing the medicinal value of marijuana with its first medical marijuana law, passed earlier this summer.

Aside from the obvious benefits that this legislation offers for patients, the hope among many in New York City is that this will also lead to laxer views on recreational use by adults, and gentler penalties on cultivation. This thinking, however, is likely a pipe dream, as new medical laws usually lead to initial crackdowns on anything outside their provisions. So, with business as usual likely to continue in NYC, the underground delivery services still reign supreme for casual weekend tokers, while the daily stoners, recreationalists, partygoers and other, more hardcore aficionados can score zips of primo ganja from dealers importing from the likes of California, Colorado, Canada and, yes, even Mexico.

Another interesting development is that the bottom has completely fallen out of the bud market in the city. The price per pound for indoor weed has dropped dramatically thanks to competition from the rock-bottom prices afforded by outdoor imports. And while even more sophisticated methods for the transportation of out-of-state ganja have been employed in the past few years—including planes and 18-wheelers packed to the gills—the quality of the buds have remained on par with years past.

Top-shelf indoor strains like OG Kush, Guava Chem and the many purple varieties go to market with the average cost of around \$3,000 per pound, while outdoors flavors such as Blue Dream and other *sativa*-heavy strains suited for a longer grow season hit the streets at around \$2,500 wholesale. The only strain to hold the line is New York's own Sour Diesel, which still commands top dollar above and beyond all the rest. *Nico Escondido*



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Pseudo-indoor grows are popping up in Mexico.



In terms of technological advancement, Montreal may be a bit behind, but they still go big up north.

Montreal, Canada

Montreal has long been a cannabis hub for the East Coast of North America. After 15 years of legal medical cannabis in Canada, the Canadian government has altered its policy regarding how medical marijuana can be grown. Instead of caregivers or patients being permitted to grow their own medicine, the federal government has now put a system in place that proposes to limit all cultivation to a handful of licensed producers. Thankfully, an injunction has been won by a large group of patients staying the implementation of that policy—so, at least for the moment, many Canadian patients and caregivers continue to grow their own.

Due to the large amount of space available, most of the commercial medical growrooms operating here are quite large—anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 square feet. They are also state-of-the-art facilities, using large, industrial-size HVAC

units as well as advanced CO₂-infusion systems to ensure that the indoor environment is perfectly controlled and that the yields are as large as possible.

When it comes to strains, the Kush varieties—especially Purple Kush—remain very popular with local growers. Another famous Quebec strain is the Jean Guy, a *sativa*-dominant hybrid that has a Christmas-tree structure and dark-colored leaves. Growers in Montreal tend to favor raising large plants that have been trained and cut into sizable bushes. The preferred nutrient line is still Advanced Nutrients, a Canadian company out of BC, but there have been hints that some savvy medical growers will soon be turning to organics as well as choosing quality over quantity. Regardless of how that pans out, Montreal remains a reliable source of some of the best medical-grade cannabis in the world. *Harry Resin*

Mexico

Down here in Mexico, we have a name for the sun: We call him *Tonatiuh*. He shines on *Pacha Mama*, the earth, and makes *la mota* grow. Electricity is extremely expensive, and the more you use, the more you pay. A small growroom can cost as much as \$1,000 a month for the power alone—so down here, we grow outdoors. The roots of *la mota* thread into *Pacha Mama*, while the gummy, seedless flowers reach up toward *Tonatiuh*. As the days get shorter in the fall, the flowers begin to develop, and the strongest cannabis is harvested in November and December.

Our new president, Enrique Peña Nieto, has removed the army from the mountains, and the many murders and narco-deaths that this country has suffered have decreased as a result. We've lived in Oaxaca for 30 years, and these might be some of the best days. The government now distinguishes between users and dealers, and personal-use stashes of all recreational drugs are legal—even heroin and LSD. A nice bag of reefer is no longer a crime; even so, the mostly Catholic Mexicans remain more drug-free than Americans. Yet hash and edibles have become more widely available.

A pound of beautiful, gooey sinsemilla or semi-seeded flowers costs \$50 down in Oaxaca! In our compound, we have grown under lights and made hash and cookies, even dabs, but mostly we roll big joints from the hybrid strains grown in the highland mountains. Native *sativas* have been crossed with *indicas* for years and now produce a plant that is spiky in shape, with broad leaves. The farmers call it *criollo* (creole). It's a resinous plant that produces a thick smoke and an undeniably powerful high.

President Peña Nieto is young and handsome, married to a movie star, and has four years left in his term. Legislation for medical marijuana is under consideration in a number of Mexican states, and political-action groups like AMMO (Asociación de Marihuana Medicinal de Oaxaca) are lobbying for export permits to send *la mota Mexicana* north to enlightened countries like Canada, and possibly even the medical and legal states in the US as well. Everything is cheaper here—doctors, dentists, haircuts and marijuana—but you have to come visit to partake. Things are better than ever, so come on down. Our *casa* is *tu casa*. *Jack Chastaine*



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Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona, which is fast overtaking Amsterdam as the new marijuana mecca of Europe, now has over 200 “social clubs” serving cannabis to both recreational and medicinal users. And while Spain has long been known for its outdoor weed, in recent years that has changed significantly. Now, thanks to the abundance of social clubs, indoor cannabis has achieved new heights of quality here.

One of the most famous strains to come out of Spain is Critical Mass, a mostly *indica* hybrid resulting from the cross of a Skunk #1 phenotype and a big-yielding Afghani. The Afghani side of the strain is most dominant, and the plant grows like a hefty bush. There are also several top-quality *sativas* that have been popping up, including Jacknesia and a new variety called Master Haze, which is available to locals through various private clubs.

Historically, Spanish growers prefer to grow in soil with organic nutrients, and this remains the predominant choice, even indoors. Some newer techniques have started permeating the indoor scene, however. These include the use of digital bulb-and-ballast setups as well as the OptiClimate system developed in Holland (and described in more detail below), which allows growers to perfectly dial in the atmospheric conditions of their rooms. There have also been a number of advances made in the area of BHO extractions, with many small companies investing in the proper equipment (including vacuum ovens, ventilation systems and high-quality solvents), leading to some amazing shatter products never seen before in Spain. *Harry Resin*



Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Amsterdam has long been the vanguard of quasi-legal cannabis with its vast network of coffeeshops, and it has also been a haven for breeders and cannabis expats seeking the freedom that the coffee-shop scene offered them. In recent years, however, this scene has changed dramatically, with many of the shops closing down and the southern provinces of the Netherlands banning foreigners from their premises.

This doesn't mean that the quality of the bud has suffered, however. In fact, there have been tremendous improvements in the Dutch cultivation scene. This has largely occurred as a result of the cultivation gear developed by Dutch engineers, especially the OptiClimate and DimLux. The OptiClimate is a complete cooling, heating, dehumidifying, and air-circulating and -purifying system rolled into one in-room appliance that provides a big boost to the often small, non-commercial-size grow spaces that are the norm in the city center. When paired with the DimLux digital-lighting system, the grower can create a closed-loop setup that allows for growroom air to be recycled with only a tiny amount of outside air being used. With these latest advances, growers can routinely produce huge yields—as much as 1.5 grams per watt. And with the Dutch police stepping up their efforts to find growrooms, these systems have added a new measure of security as well. As a result, pot production in Amsterdam has ramped up this year, even with the clampdown on the weed scene.

As for strains, while it took a bit longer than it did almost everywhere else, the Kush explosion has finally hit Amsterdam. Many different variations on the OG can now be found on the menus of coffeeshops, sometimes reaching up to 18 euros a gram (\$25 US)! Additionally, there have been advances in the production of concentrates, with extraction labs popping up here and there and producing some very clean shatters that are mostly available through local connections. All in all, Amsterdam has been bouncing back from a rough couple of years, and the city remains a bucket-list item for stoners around the world—and for good reason. There's still nothing like popping into an Amsterdam coffeeshop, ordering a hot chocolate, rolling a joint and then sitting back to enjoy the scene where it all started. *Harry Resin* 🌿



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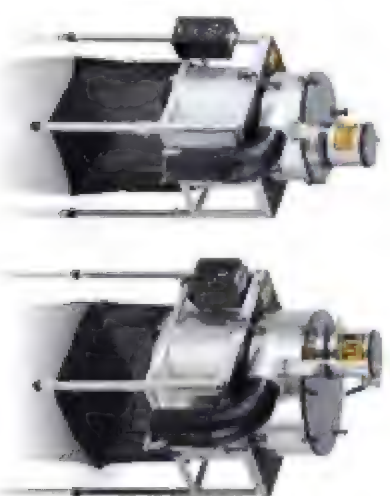
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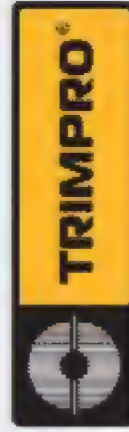


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Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko compiles our list of the best marijuana varieties we've seen over the past year, from the tasty and potent winners of the High Times Cannabis Cups to the phenomenal strains that wowed connoisseurs and medical patients alike throughout 2014.

DGOG

Laplata Labs
laplatalabs.com

The DGOG (short for "Durango OG"), from our 2013 Seed Bank Hall of Fame inductees Laplata Labs, is coated in resin from the stalks and branches to the tips of the fan leaves and, of course, the nuggets. Laplata took an F1 hybrid developed by Eclectic Genetics and worked it

into an F3 by selecting for their favorite phenotypes, resulting in a super-frosty Kush plant that puts many others to shame. The breeders describe the aroma as the enticing smell of "new rubber, like a fresh pair of shoes or a can of tennis balls—along with that OG funkiness!"

Her relatively short flowering time means the DGOG is very forgiving as far as feeding is concerned and doesn't have

much time to develop pests or mold. The breeders at Laplata recommend lots of topping and defoliating as well as a little extra vegetative time for increased yields. Also, the DGOG is a very fibrous plant and doesn't require staking or trellising in order to stay upright throughout flowering.

Lineage: Alien OG x Alien Bubba
Flowering time: 7 to 8 weeks

Sour Amnesia

Hortilab

hortilabseeds.com

Marijuana aficionados love Sour Amnesia, and they proved it in 2012 when they gave her the second-place spot for Best *Sativa* at the Amsterdam Cannabis Cup. This *sativa*-dominant hybrid has an amazing smell and taste, with the lemon and fuel notes courtesy of the Sour Diesel side of her parentage along with sweet and fruity flavors from the Amnesia.

The longer-than-average flowering time is made up for by

the strain's incredible potency and a pretty decent yield for something leaning a bit more on the *sativa* side. In just five years of selling seeds, the breeders at Hortilab have proven time and time again that they can create prize-winning strains with strength, stability and the added benefit of high germination rates. They recommend using coco or hydro methods, but organic soil mixes can do justice to the Sour Amnesia as well.

Lineage: *Sour Diesel x Amnesia*

Flowering time: 10 to 11 weeks



Sour Amnesia

Strike Oil

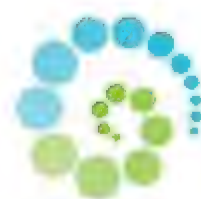
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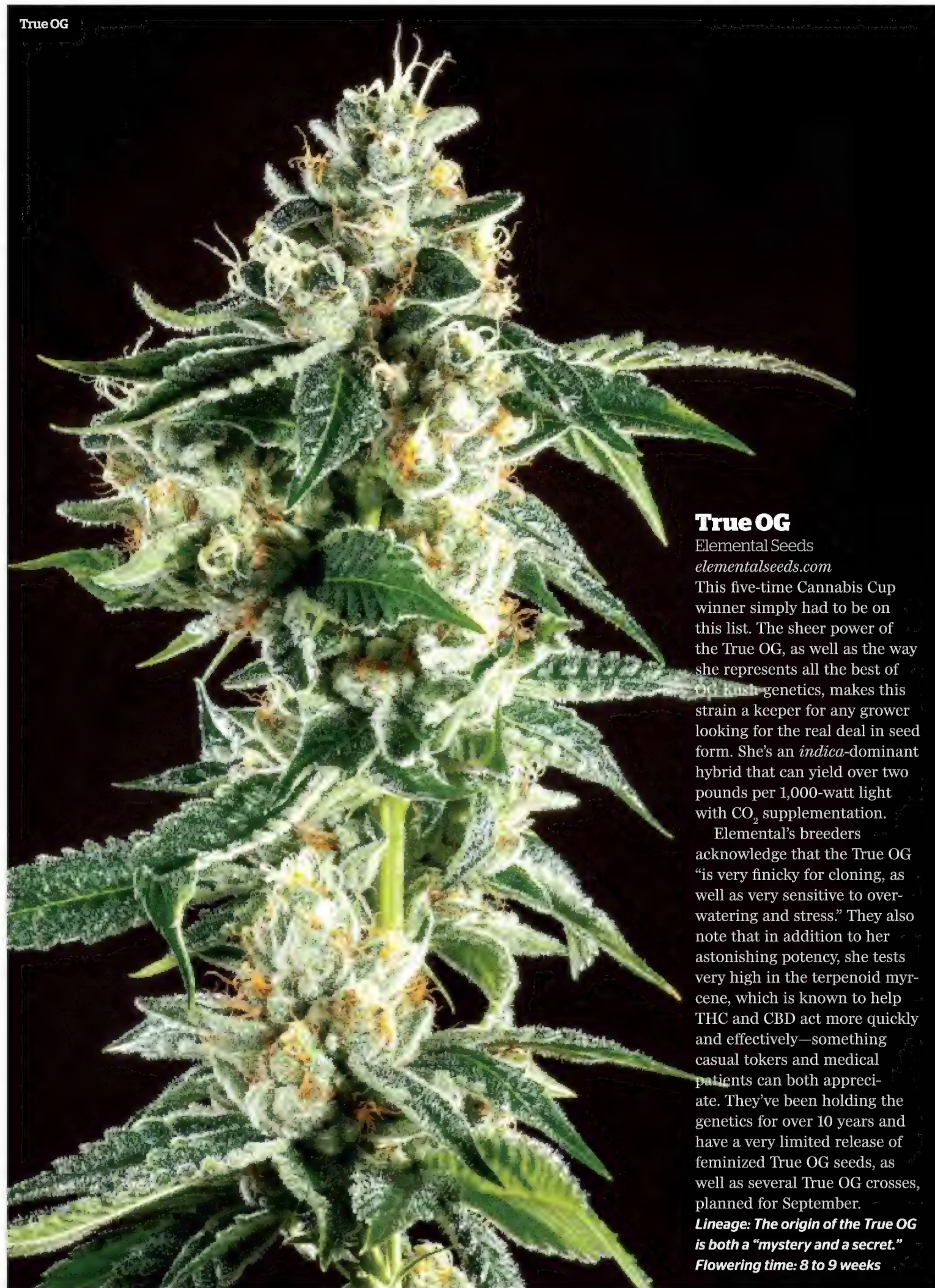
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True OG

**True OG**

Elemental Seeds

elementalseeds.com

This five-time Cannabis Cup winner simply had to be on this list. The sheer power of the True OG, as well as the way she represents all the best of OG Kush genetics, makes this strain a keeper for any grower looking for the real deal in seed form. She's an *indica*-dominant hybrid that can yield over two pounds per 1,000-watt light with CO₂ supplementation.

Elemental's breeders acknowledge that the True OG "is very finicky for cloning, as well as very sensitive to over-watering and stress." They also note that in addition to her astonishing potency, she tests very high in the terpenoid myrcene, which is known to help THC and CBD act more quickly and effectively—something casual tokers and medical patients can both appreciate. They've been holding the genetics for over 10 years and have a very limited release of feminized True OG seeds, as well as several True OG crosses, planned for September.

Lineage: *The origin of the True OG is both a "mystery and a secret."*

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks



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Hellraiser OG



Hellraiser OG

Archive Seeds

archiveseedbank.com

Few clone-only strains inspire the reverence given to the Fire OG cut made famous in online forums by OG Raskal. Now ThaDocta, the acclaimed breeder for *High Times* Seed Bank Hall of Fame members Archive Seeds, has crossed that

esteemed specimen to his infamous Face Off OG to create the next generation of Kush hybrids. Strong, flavorful and smelling like the funkiest of Kushes, the Hellraiser is sure to add a few more Cannabis Cup trophies to Archive's collection in the near future.

Growers will need to use staking of some sort, because the Hellraiser OG

tends to stretch between nodes. Use fertilizers cautiously and never at full strength, because this plant is a light feeder, but she'll make up for it with decent-sized harvests of perfect lime-green nuggets that sparkle like gemstones and deliver an amazing taste.

Lineage: Fire OG x Face Off OG (Bx1)

Flowering time: 10 weeks

Sin Mint Cookies



Sin Mint Cookies

Sin City Seeds

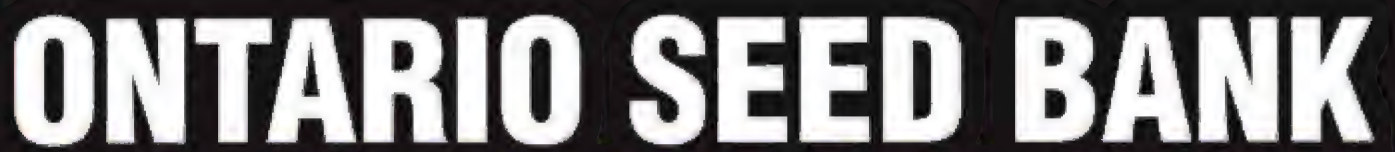
homeofthedank.com

With all the recent hysteria surrounding Girl Scout Cookies, you're right to be skeptical of any outsize claims being made for a GSC-related strain. But the breeders at Sin City Seeds are gambling that they've found a real winner. A perfect combination of their flagship Blue Power strain and the GSC "forum cut," Sin Mint Cookies—with the intense smell and taste of mint-cookie dough and a potent high to match—legitimately lives up to the hype.

Farmers will love the relatively short flowering time and bulked-up profile of this strain, but go easy on the nutrients for the best results. This is an easy-to-grow version of a hard-to-find clone-only cut. The breeders at Sin City tell me: "The offspring show great vigor and do very well in various growing mediums and conditions, but they perform best when given extra support during flowering, as even the lowest branches produce rock-solid flowers."

Lineage: Girl Scout Cookies "forum cut" x Blue Power

Flowering time: 9 weeks



A photograph of a woman in a bikini sitting on a toilet in a bathroom. The scene is heavily decorated with graffiti and stickers. On the left, a small plant in a pot is labeled 'AUTO FLOWER'. The wall behind the toilet is covered in various tags and messages, including 'NO AUTO-FLOWERS DITCH WEED SEED!', 'FLUSH THE EUROTRASH AND BUY NORTH AMERICAN!', 'Pink Kush', 'Hill Billy', 'Dolly's Mountain Dew', 'The grass is GREENER in N. America', 'P.K. FAF GUBBA', 'For good seeds, call 416-255-5355', 'DPR', 'Rabbit', '5 STAR', 'DEAD HEAD', '406 BIG SMOKE', 'I shake for CHEESE QUAKE!', 'OLD SCHOOL', 'PPR', 'TGA', and 'AUTO FLOWER'. A small dog figurine is on the floor next to the toilet. The woman is wearing a yellow bikini top and a pink bikini bottom with 'PPR' written on it. She is holding a cigarette in her right hand.

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Alphakronik Genes

alphakronikgenes.com

Hybrids made using Chem Dog genes don't always reflect the best qualities of the lineage, but relative newcomers Alphakronik Genes have found a way to pull it off. They've crossed Chemdog D with their Sin City Kush (Afghani), and the resulting, slightly *sativa*-dominant variety has all the tongue-tingling signs of a proven winner. Spicy, with a complex scent and taste, the Dawgfather offers notes of diesel fuel among the usual musky Kush and Chem odors.

Growing the Dawgfather will require some staking and pruning to achieve a decent harvest without too much space between internodes, and she's a heavy feeder to boot (particularly nitrogen). Some phenotypes of this strain have very nice CBD ratios, and the effects are well worth the extra work, with medical users touting the Dawgfather for relief from Crohn's disease, nausea and anxiety.

Lineage: Chemdog D x Sin City Kush

Flowering time: 8 to 10 weeks

Quantum Kush

Home Grown Natural Wonders

tgagenetics.com

A new division of TGA Genetics called Home Grown Natural Wonders has created a strain that boasts both a very high THC level and a complex terpene profile. The result is a long-lasting high with virtually no ceiling as well as an interesting set of flavors and scents. Break open a nugget and you're immediately hit with the Kush side of this hybrid, but linger with it a bit longer and the sweetness from her Timewreck side comes out.

Quantum Kush grows tall and will continue to stretch, so breeder Subcool recommends topping her early to spread the branches out. Using smart pruning techniques, you'll get a great yield of big, beautiful buds. Medical users suffering from bodily aches and pains, insomnia, loss of appetite or depression all report benefits using this strain.

Lineage: Sweet Irish Kush x Timewreck

Flowering time: 9 weeks



Quantum Kush

Whitewalker OG



Whitewalker OG

Gold Coast Collection

goldcoastusa.com

This medical marijuana collective based in the Los Angeles area have won a bunch of Cannabis Cups recently for their flowers and concentrates. Their commitment to excellence shines through in their Whitewalker OG, the first-place *indica* winner at our 2013 High Times Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. These ridiculously frosty buds sparkle in the light like diamonds.

Expect an above-average harvest from the Whitewalker OG, particularly for a Kush phenotype. The plants grow tall, lanky branches that will keel over as they approach ripeness, so staking or trellising is a must. The sugar leaf and nuggets produce absolutely incredible concentrates—another specialty of the Gold Coast crew. They've assured me that a limited release of these seeds will be coming in early 2015 for growers who simply must have this strain in their arsenal.

Lineage: Rare bag seed of San Fernando Valley OG Kush

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Dawgfather

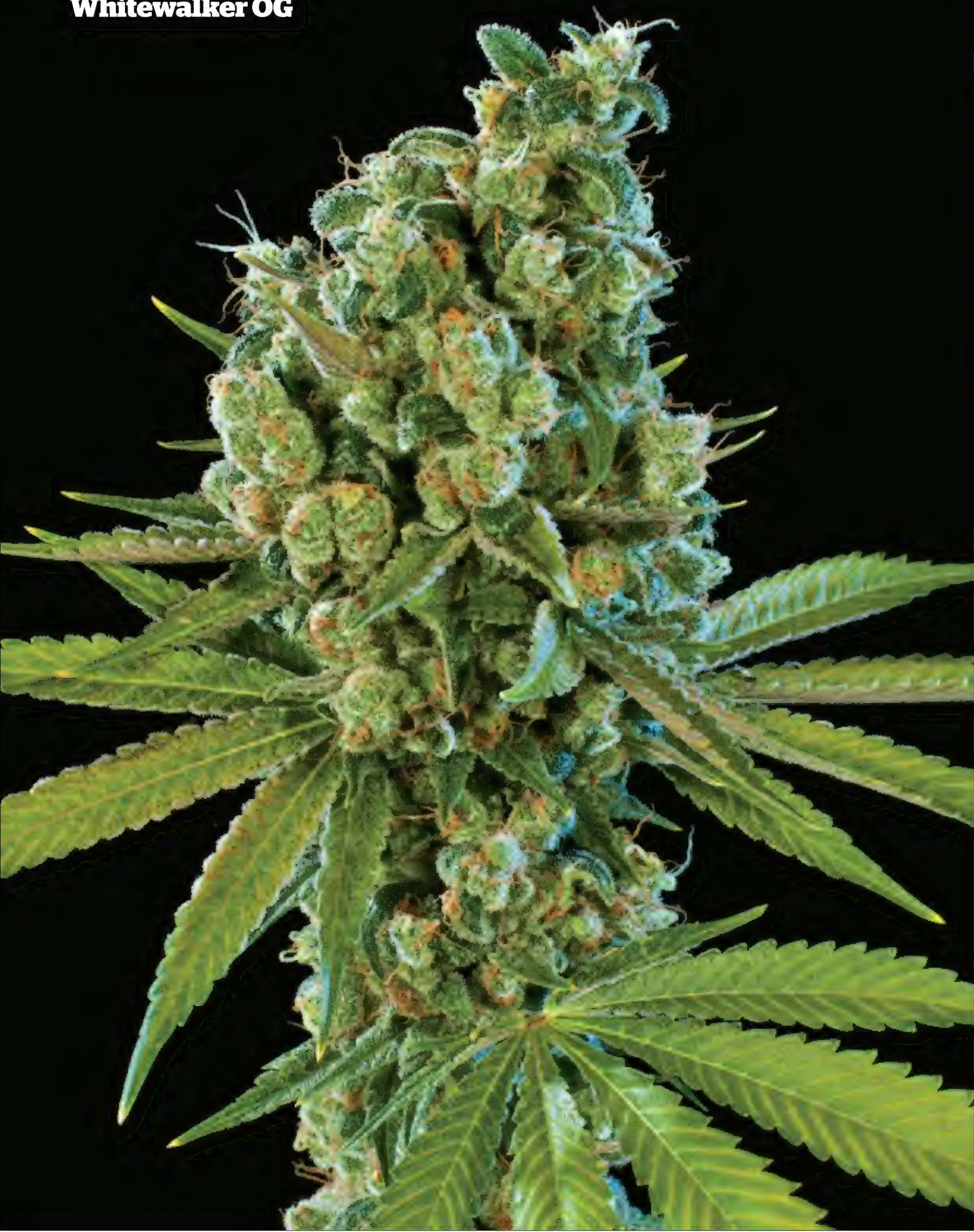


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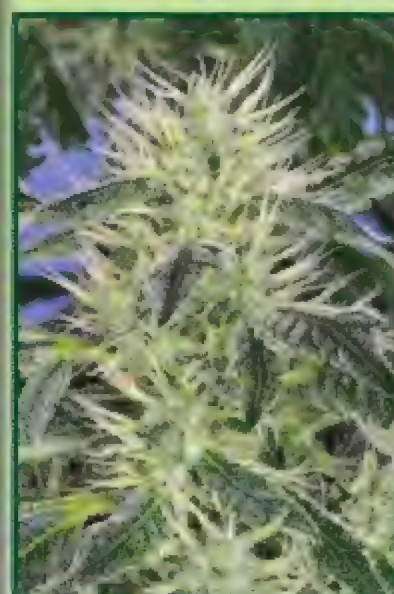
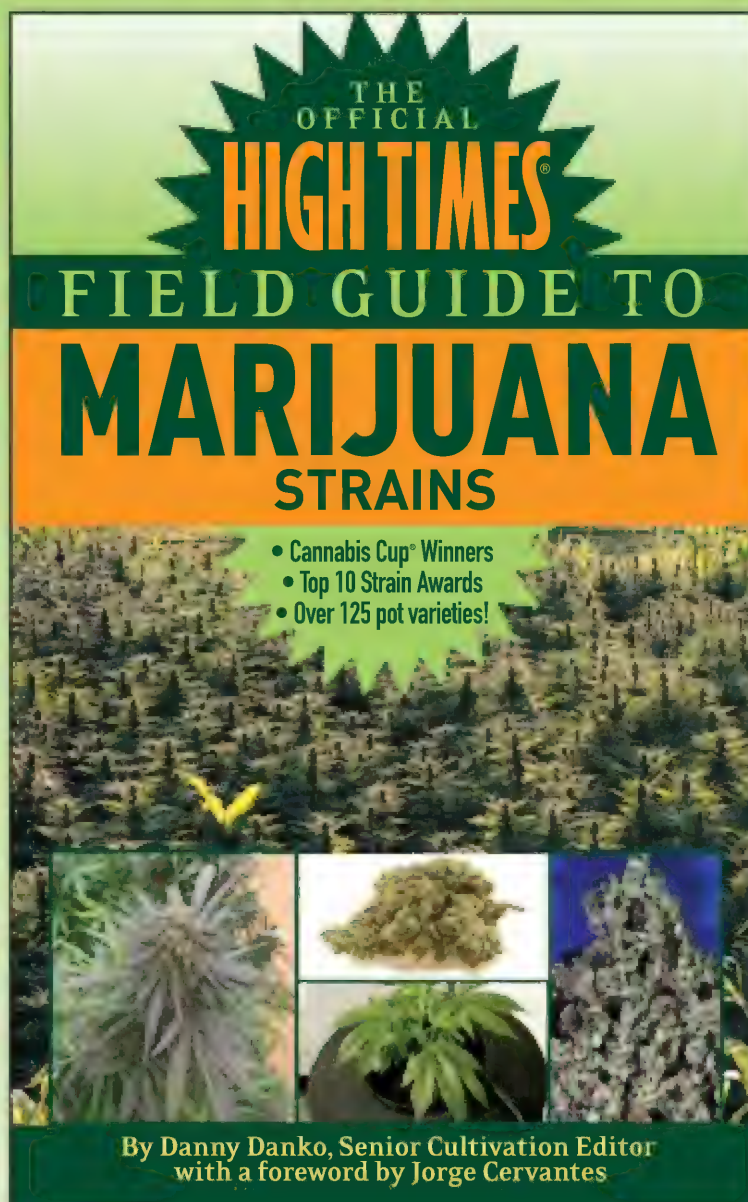
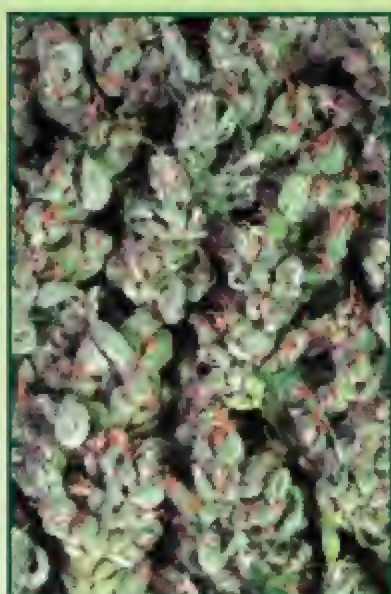




Whitewalker OG



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CBD God

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 bcbuddepot.com

Growers and patients searching for a CBD-rich strain that can work wonders should look no further than the CBD God. After discovering a God Bud phenotype with 4% CBD, the breeders at BC Bud Depot pollinated it with a male Harlequin backcrossed four times to produce a wide range of phenos—some of them high in THC with a small amount of CBD, and others high in CBD but with much less THC. Some of the phenos are even balanced 1:1 for THC to CBD—a highly sought-after ratio.

Breeder Matt tells me that CBD God is a heavy feeder and a big yielder, adding: “Her fat *indica* leaves and purple hues show she’s taken on the dominance of her God Bud parentage.” Patients interested in growing their own medicine will find what they’re looking for with the CBD God, and the *indica*-dominant nature of this plant makes it easy to cultivate, even for beginners.

Lineage: An insulated pink-pistil high-CBD God Bud x Harlequin (Bx4)

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks



Big Buddha Cheese
 Version 2



Big Buddha Cheese, version 2 (Cheese x Cheese Reversed)

Big Buddha Seeds
 bigbuddhaseeds.com

For the 10th anniversary of Big Buddha Seeds' groundbreaking win at the 2004 Cannabis Cup (when the relatively unknown Cheese took third place in the People's Cup), breeder Milo decided to celebrate by creating a funky new Cheese. He hit his famous female Cheese clone with pollen from a clone that was forced to reverse to a male, producing a pungent new Cheese 2.0 that truly improves on the original.

Even though she's a 100% pure *indica*, the Cheese has unusually thin leaves and a lighter lime-green color. The buds grow compact and tight and reveal their Afghan origins in their unmistakable scent and taste. The powerfully narcotic *indica* body stone aids in sleep for those suffering from insomnia and also relieves deep muscle aches and other bodily pains.

Lineage: Original UK Big Buddha Cheese clone x Original UK Big Buddha Cheese reversed clone
Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks 🌿

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COMMITTED TO CANNABIS INNOVATION

When it comes to growing great medical pot, time is the only way to gain experience. But sometimes you get it right the first time—though it helps to have an expert mentor and a friendly buyer. *Story & Photos by Dan Skye*



QuickSt

So many in our community have watched the scourge of cancer ravage loved ones. For many, it's when their understanding of cannabis first took root, motivating them to activism, cultivation or both.

Robert's grandfather suffered from terminal esophageal cancer. He was diagnosed in October, and the doctors said he might not make it to Christmas. However, by using cannabis, Robert says, his grandfather "was able to maintain

his appetite and survived over two years before finally losing his battle. But watching him go through pain was unexplainably hard."

The experience planted a seed. By learning to grow medicinal-quality marijuana, Robert thought, he'd be able to help patients like his grandfather. But the state of Illinois, where he grew up, has only now started to roll out its medical marijuana program. The law was passed last year and signed into effect by Governor Pat Quinn on August

1, 2013, and lawmakers say that patients may be able to purchase cannabis from state-licensed facilities by the spring of 2015. But for now, cultivation remains a criminal offense.

Luckily, Robert had a strong family connection: His cousin is married to Aaron Justis, the president of the Buds & Roses dispensary in Los Angeles—one of the nation's premier medical marijuana outlets, which has garnered 19 Cannabis Cup awards ranging from flowers to edibles. And Buds & Roses' resident grow



udy



Blue Dream and Platinum Cookies grow side by side in Robert's first garden.

guru is none other than Kyle Kushman, the personable, highly approachable cultivation expert (and former *HT* staffer) who is the creator of Vegamatrix, a line of vegan and organic nutrients.

With no legally safe growing possibilities available in the “Land of Lincoln,” Robert left Illinois and headed west, where opportunity was knocking—hard. Kyle, whom he’d met at the 2013 Cannabis Cup in San Bernardino, had offered to take him on as a student in what academia calls a “practical curriculum.” Robert was going to get his hands dirty and, in time, become certified as an expert cannabis grower. Even better, Aaron promised to buy his crop if it was up to Buds & Roses’ standards.

So Robert, accompanied by his partner Janelle, moved into a spacious bungalow in a nondescript suburb of LA and began his tutelage under Kyle’s watchful eye.

Robert, the Rookie

“I was born and raised in Rockford, Ill,” Robert recalls. “I discovered my passion for cannabis because of my grandfather’s use. I truly believe it’s one of the most beneficial medicines in our society today—and for years it’s been overlooked.

“I started with 72 plants in my first room. I used 10-gallon pots with lots of extra air holes drilled in the bottom. Kyle got me started using a custom blend of Mana Mix, which is produced by Vital Earth but will soon be released under the Vegamatrix label. For nutrients, I relied on Vegamatrix and the consistent re-inoculation of beneficial microbes or organisms. We now use Bountea microbial tea.

“My lights are the newest model from SolisTek. I run 12 lights in a 17' x 20' room. Each is 1,000 watts and features a built-in, programmable timer that is

“The plants grow fast. If everything is right and the plants are-maintained correctly, you can actually watch them grow overnight!”

dimnable to six wattages: 400, 430, 600, 630, 1,000 or 1,100.

“For me, the hardest thing about growing was keeping up with the plants—trying to judge when to water them and what plants actually needed water. There’s a lot of work that goes into the whole process. There’s a lot more than just watering; there’s de-noding, de-leafing, raising the fans, raising the lights, emptying the dehumidifiers ... the list goes on.

“The plants grow fast. If everything is right and the plants are maintained correctly, you can actually watch them grow overnight! Also, our crop grew taller than we expected, which led to problems with our fans. You always want to keep circulation above the top of the garden, so the fans have to be higher than the plants.

“The most incredible thing I learned was supercropping, watching Kyle break and bend the stems. I was in shock when I heard the cracking of stems the first couple times he showed me. It was hard to believe the plants would even survive, let alone get stronger because of it.”

Supercropping, for those not familiar with the term, is a technique in which a three- to four-week-old plant is deliberately subjected to stress. Every few inches, from the bottom of the plant to the top, the grower carefully twists each branch in opposite directions until he (or she) hears the inner hurds snap. If the branch is released correctly, there will be no visible damage to the plant; the branch itself may (or may not) droop. This affords growers the chance to reduce the height of the taller branches and even the canopy. Branches will return to their vertical position within hours, and the plant will now behave as though it doesn’t have a top, thereby increasing growth on the lower branches.

“My first harvest yielded around 15 pounds between the three strains I grew—Blue Dream, Platinum Cookies and Omrita,” Robert continues. “Blue Dream is a classic strain that the patients

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love and hasn't been grown veganically for a few years. Omrita is very rich in CBD, and Platinum Cookies, which won the 2014 Cannabis Cup in Denver for Best U.S. Flowers, is another patient favorite ... mine, too.

"In my second grow, I've got Veganic Silverback, Grape Ape and Veganic LA Confidential. When I moved out to California, I told Aaron and Kyle that one of my main goals was to grow a High Times Cannabis Cup-winning strain. So that's what I'm working on now. Knowing that I'm helping patients is very rewarding; it helps me feel like I'm doing my part."

Kyle, the Coach

"After 25 years of being in the public eye," Kyle says, "I've probably taught thousands of growers. Everyone is different and learns in a slightly different way. A good teacher is a good listener: You need to be able to identify their needs and make adjustments to enhance the learning experience. Robert and Janelle were both excellent students. They asked a lot of questions and were diligent in the application of the methods and techniques they were taught. The finished product lived up to our toughest standards and was very well received by



Omrita, a high-CBD strain, has become a favorite at Buds & Roses in Los Angeles.

the patients at Buds & Roses.

"The hardest thing for new growers to learn is patience. You can't rush an organism that's evolved over eons. This relates to every aspect of cultivation, from watering to harvesting to drying

and curing. Personal cultivation is extremely rewarding on so many levels. Taking the time to learn the language of the plant through observation is the only way to become a master cultivator.

"It's extremely important to pay attention to watering frequency. It's a grower's best tool for maximizing yield and potency while minimizing stress factors—particularly if you're growing in soil or soilless mediums. Having confidence as to the plants' watering needs takes a little experience. It's a big reason why many choose hydroponic formats. But, again, patience and good observational skills are all that's required to hone in on the perfect wet-to-dry cycle for individual environments."

For best results, Kyle advises shepherding the plants through a carefully calibrated wet-dry cycle. "Allowing the pots to dry out forces the roots to search for water; it also lessens the chance of molds and funguses. When you water, fully saturate the pots, then wait until the plants are near wilting to water again. When the flowers are becoming heavy on the plant, you don't want to stress them by letting them get too dry—but near the end, when the plants are beginning to ripen, go back to letting

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"Over the years, I've seen so many first-time growers in small areas succeed above their wildest imagination. Why? Maybe because growing isn't that hard ... but creating the perfect indoor environment is. Focus most of your attention on growing the healthiest plants possible—most certainly, they'll be the healthiest for you to smoke. If you're going to call it medicine, as I do, you'd better make sure it's good for *you*. That's why, after growing with every methodology, I've returned to organics. And with Veganics, I've taken the concept of 'healthful' to a whole new level, eliminating any chance of contamination from pathogens, which are transferred by using animal products.

"My friendship and partnership with Tyler Wadleigh and Aaron Justis, the men responsible for the success of Buds & Roses [see "Run for the Roses," Jan. '14], is stronger than ever. I'm hugely proud about launching my nutrient company, Vegamatrix. My goal is to provide a simple, cost-effective way to grow veganic cannabis. Certainly, for indoor horticulture, it's the next logical step beyond organics. I like to call it the 'Evolution of Agri-Culture.'"



Aaron Justis and Kyle Kushman mentored Robert the rookie.

Aaron, the Owner

"Robert's Veganic Blue Dream was very popular," Aaron notes. "The majority of our patients love a good *sativa*—and they prefer the flowers we produce. Of course, it didn't hurt that we also produced Veganic Omrita, a high-CBD strain, which is

very popular these days. But the Veganic Platinum Cookies flew off the shelf! Since winning the High Times U.S. Cannabis Cup, anytime it's in stock, our patients will pour in for it. It's a good problem, I admit.

"Robert is now one of our 'patient cultivators.' But more specifically, he's in the process of becoming a master cultivator, fully qualified to be a staff grower for Kushman Veganics," Aaron adds. "Kushman Veganics is a new line of finished products that we're launching; it features the products we create using all of our in-house best practices. Kushman Genetics is also starting to release products, including Joey's Strain, which has been a success as a medicinal strain for children with special needs. It's mostly effective with autistic patients.

"We're also developing a network of the best dispensaries in the country to carry these products. We're beginning to reach out to potential patient groups such as the elderly, and we're working more and more through medical professionals. Also, activism—the fight for legalization and ending the failed War on Drugs—is always high on our priority list, so you'll continue to witness us doing that." 🌿

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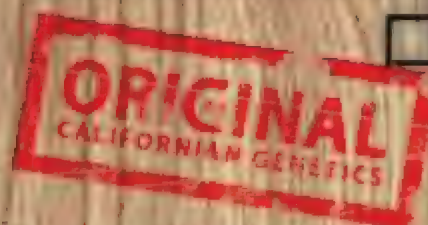
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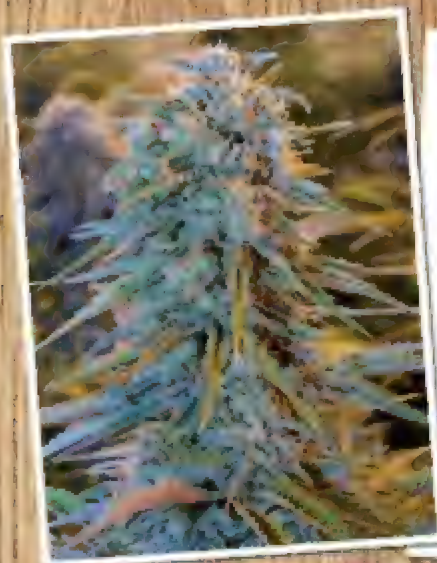


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Blue Dream
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This cross of Blueberry and Haze is known for its very pleasant fruity-tangy earthy taste, blue color, and strong and lasting, mixed mind and body high. The high starts with a sativa high and finishes around 3 hours later with a relaxing indica like muscle easing and pain killing effect. It is one of the favourites in California and in fact it is among the top ten most demanded strains in there, which gives a good measure about the quality of this jewel. Taste is described by users as sweet, tangy, lemony, and earthy. Produces big plants that grow fast and wide, and it is appropriate for commercial purposes.



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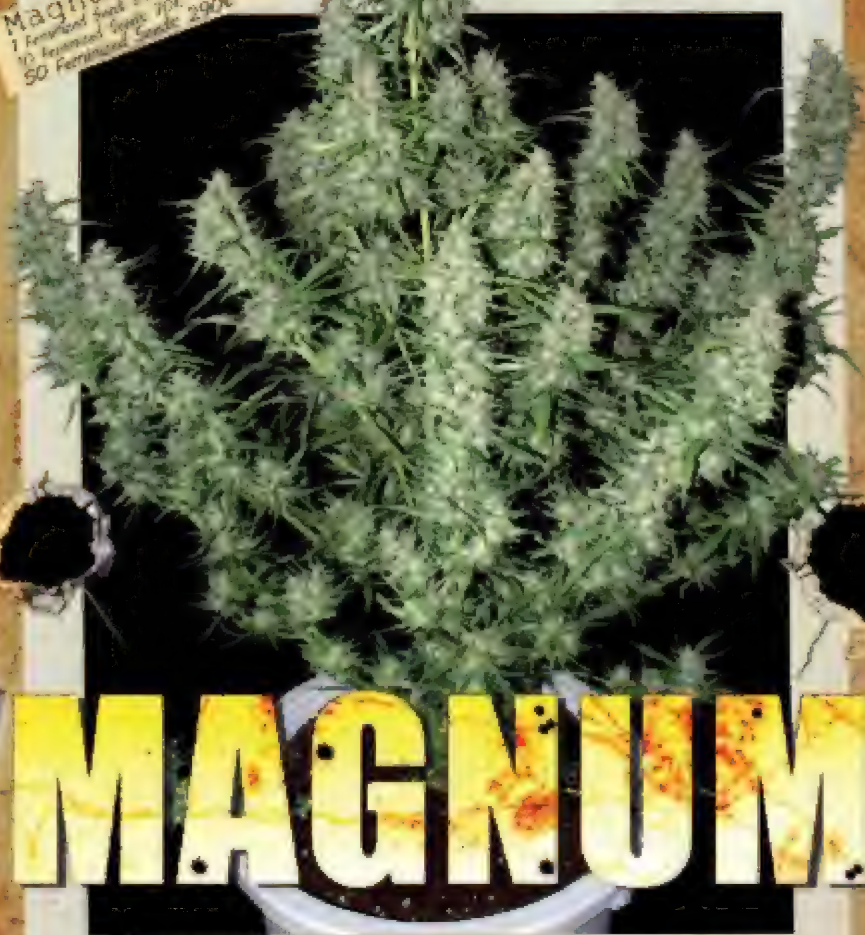


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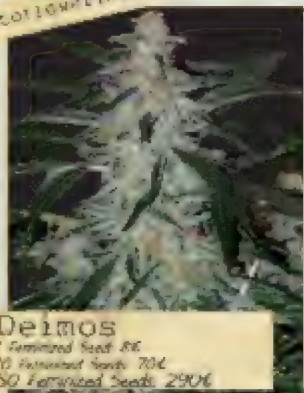
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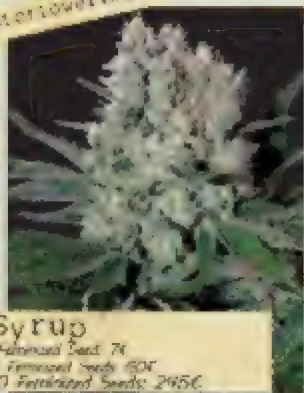
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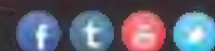
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It's Time to Free the Weed Market

The future of legal marijuana requires us to learn from the mistakes of the past. *By Jon Gettman*

The legalization of marijuana has become one of the hottest topics in American politics, thanks to the voters of Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Washington, DC. These days, the national debate is changing from why marijuana should be legalized to how it should be regulated. And the regional debate, taking place in the next round of states to consider legalization initiatives, has focused on the lessons learned from the approaches advanced in these four states. What, though, should marijuana consumers throughout the country learn from these pioneering efforts?

Here's what consumers need to appreciate: If you want to free the weed, you must also free the market. A competitive free market is the best regulatory approach when it comes to protecting the interests of both marijuana consumers and the public at large. To that end, *High Times* is supporting a new website dedicated to advancing free-market policies for legalizing marijuana: *RegulatingCannabis.com*.



The case for creating a free market in marijuana is fairly straightforward. Given the tens of millions of marijuana arrests over the last several decades, most people think of legalization in terms of ending arrests, incarceration and criminal records. (And let's set aside the hollow defense that most people don't go to jail for marijuana possession—an arrest is an arrest, and even in most states where marijuana possession has been “decriminalized,” it remains a criminal offense, covered by criminal law and under the jurisdiction of the criminal-justice system.) The main thrust of the efforts to legalize marijuana, therefore, has been to free marijuana users from the jurisdiction of the criminal-justice system.

But legalization is about more than this. For most advocates, our cause is also about the destruction of the greedy, exploitive and predatory economic system that marijuana prohibition has created, which is responsible for a tremendous transfer of wealth from

marijuana consumers to a small minority of individuals who have found ways to benefit from the illegal market. Prohibition, in other words, produces a captive market—one in which participation is limited, profits are excessive, and consumers pay unreasonable prices.

The end of prohibition, by contrast, offers the promise of a free market open to all entrepreneurs, producing new combinations of goods and services, and dedicated to making honest profits by appealing to consumer preferences.

Marijuana prohibition holds the market captive by preventing this kind of economic development. It obstructs the creation of consumer-friendly products and services, and it hinders the research and development of new strains, cultivation aids, safer methods of consumption, greater medical applications, and the use of industrial hemp in manufacturing and related technologies.

Ending prohibition, in short, will free marijuana from its current state of economic captivity—but only if it leads to a truly free market for both marijuana consumers and entrepreneurs.

Government Intervention and the Market

A free market, it should be stated at the outset, is *not* an unregulated market (more on that later). A captive market, by contrast, is one in which the government picks winners and losers. “Crony capitalism” is a term that has gained popularity lately; it refers to government officials using political power and regulatory authority to help their cronies make money, often at the expense of the public interest. But there’s another problem with captive markets: They don’t work very well. For example, when the first legal retail outlet for marijuana opened in Washington State, it ran out of cannabis in three days. In time, the legal market in Washington will be up and running—but it still operates on the faulty premise that the best way to regulate marijuana is to restrict the number of permits allowed for cultivation and retail sales.

Prohibition is one form of a captive market, in which the government uses criminal law to profoundly influence which people can enter the market and benefit from it. However, a state monopoly—in which the government directly determines who can grow and sell marijuana legally—is another. There are many proposals circulating in academic jour-



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nals and elsewhere that argue in favor of a government monopoly as the best way to regulate the marijuana market. The reasoning behind this approach is that the price of marijuana needs to be kept at current levels in order to discourage marijuana use.

The effect of these two approaches is essentially the same. Under prohibition, the government’s laws enable criminal organizations to capture the illegal marijuana market, as well as most of its profits. Under a state monopoly, the government captures the marijuana market (and most of its profits) for its own use.

These two approaches have something else in common: Both result in a tremendous transfer of wealth from marijuana consumers to whoever has captured the market—and, to protect those enormous profits, both approaches seek to limit and control the participation of others in this captive market.

Characteristics of a Free Market

In a free market, by contrast, regulation serves to enforce age restrictions, protect consumers and provide reasonable tax revenue for all levels of government. As a result, in a free market, any adult is allowed to grow marijuana for personal or commercial use, and the taxes on marijuana will be similar to those on alcohol and tobacco (which means that the retail price will also be similar to the price of alcohol and tobacco, and not kept at the inflated and unreasonable levels of prior decades).

One of the rationales for tight control over the marijuana market is to prevent legally produced marijuana from being sold on the illegal market. In a free market, however, no profit incentive exists to bypass the market’s regulatory provisions. Ironically, proposals to inflate the price of marijuana through excessive taxation continue to provide economic incentives for selling marijuana illegally. This is especially true with respect to teenage marijuana sales, since today close to 20 percent of teenage marijuana users also sell illegal drugs. A free market in marijuana will not only reduce the price of pot; it will also reduce accordingly the profit incentive for teens to sell it their friends, classmates and peers.

Sensible regulations in a free market will set an age limit for marijuana sales, most likely the same ones that exist today for alcohol and tobacco. They will also include the accurate labeling of marijuana products, covering such matters as potency, recommended dosage, and certification that the product is free from contaminants like mold. Taxes will vary from place to place, but they will be influenced by realistic economic assessments for preventing black-market competition. Also, tax revenue is essential for funding education and prevention efforts—at levels far beyond what is currently available—in order to discourage teenage marijuana use. Education and prevention have been a successful alternative to prohibition in reducing alcohol and tobacco use among teens, and together they represent one of the best and most sensible uses of marijuana-tax revenue.

Most importantly, a free marijuana market will have a devastating impact on the illegal market, something that economists refer to as “creative destruction.” Originally introduced by Joseph Schumpeter, the theory of creative destruction looks at trade in terms of various channels through which economic activity flows. The emergence of new

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combinations of goods and services—what we call “entrepreneurship”—creates new channels of activity that attract the flow of commerce. As a result, the old channels lose out as commerce flows elsewhere. The creation of new channels of economic activity results in the destruction of the old system (in this case, the vast illegal market created by prohibition). This is how a free market in marijuana will eliminate the illegal market: by providing enough production, creativity and commercial activities to destroy the predatory structures created by prohibition.

The Consumer Interest

The use of voter-approved ballot initiatives has been a surprising success in getting marijuana legalization enacted at the state level. The organizations, advocates and funders of these initiatives know what they're doing, and they have the track record to prove it. The provisions of these initiatives have been carefully considered to address local concerns and gain broad public support. But the regulatory systems created by this process are merely the beginning—not the end—of deciding how to regulate marijuana.

One of the benefits of having individual states try different approaches to

legalization is to find out what works; it is a way to test various regulatory models and evaluate their results. Part of the legalization process has been to study these results and seek to improve the regulations used to create a legal market for marijuana. In other words, the purpose of trying out different approaches is to

A legal marijuana market will not work if consumers don't like the rules and regulations imposed on it.

determine the best way to end the illegal market, replacing it with a legal, regulated one that serves the interests of both marijuana consumers and the general public.

Unlike the legislative process, however, this initiative process doesn't provide for input from consumers. Instead, initiatives supply a general framework and often delegate the enactment of specific regulations to a state agency. And while state agencies will often solicit public comment on proposed regulations, this remains an imperfect process—especially since the

overall regulatory framework has already been enacted.

The interests of marijuana consumers in legalization include such issues as personal cultivation, informal transfers between friends, casual commercial activity, more formal commercial activity in the form of cooperative cultivation agreements, and a wide variety of issues involving the labeling, quality control and taxing of products made available for commercial sale. There are several issues regarding medical access that are also of interest to marijuana consumers, especially when the needs of patients clash with the regulatory provisions of the general market.

Over time, the process of legalizing marijuana needs to open up in order to solicit and respond to the input and needs of marijuana consumers. A legal marijuana market will not work if consumers don't like the rules and regulations imposed on it. Indeed, the success of legalization requires the voluntary and enthusiastic support of marijuana consumers. For this reason, as the current frameworks are studied and new approaches are introduced, it is essential that the feedback and issues advanced by marijuana consumers be addressed.

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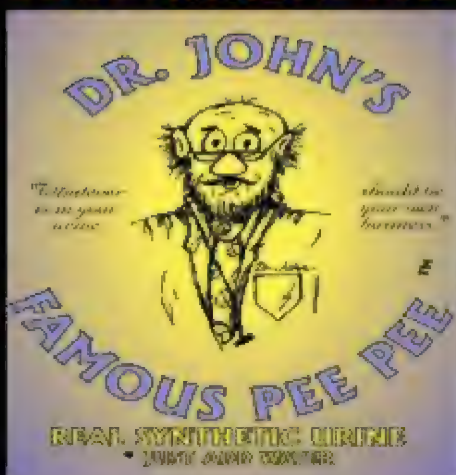
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The Key to Success

John Kaplan wrote in 1972 that the prohibition of drugs will be effective only if the state can control the technology of production. In other words, marijuana prohibition was doomed to failure for several reasons, but the biggest cause was the ability of consumers to grow marijuana themselves anywhere in the US. Indeed, domestic marijuana production represents a concerted effort by American consumers to take control of the marijuana market from foreign organizations.

Marijuana is grown everywhere—on farms, in forests, in warehouses, and in backyards, closets, attics, basements and utility sheds. According to a federal survey, the number of people who grow their own marijuana has doubled in the last 10 years. Law-enforcement officials routinely admit that they seize only a small percentage of the marijuana grown in the United States every year.

Marijuana legalization must therefore appeal to consumers, or they will continue to create their own market outside the law. If taxes are too high, marijuana consumers will respond by buying marijuana outside the legal market—or by growing it themselves. As mentioned, the theory of creative destruction calls

for the transfer of economic activity from old, outmoded channels to newer, better ones. However, public policy can only create these new channels; the actual transfer of commerce is something that consumers make happen.

A lot of commentary on the subject of legalization suffers from the mistaken

If taxes are too high, marijuana consumers will respond by buying marijuana outside the legal market.

belief that the government can efficiently control the marijuana market. This belief usually takes two forms. The first is a false-choice doctrine, which compares legalization to a fantasy scenario in which marijuana is not widely available thanks to prohibition. This fantasy scenario refuses to acknowledge the depth, prevalence and persistence of the unregulated marijuana market that currently exists under prohibition. The second form of this mistaken belief is that marijuana consumers can be forced

to accept whatever regulatory framework and price the government decides to impose on them. The flaw in both arguments is that the government has only a feeble and deleterious control over the market now—nor can it force marijuana consumers to behave any differently than they have for the last several decades.

Therefore, legalization will only succeed in the destruction of the illegal market if we learn from the mistakes of the past. A free market is a voluntary market, and it is also a competitive one. A free market seeks to attract consumers by responding to their needs and preferences. A free market is also able to adapt to any changes in those needs and preferences, fostering innovation and the creation of new goods and services. A free market, in short, is the key to success for marijuana legalization—the most effective tool we have for creatively destroying the illegal market. ✱

For more information, visit Regulating-Cannabis.com, a new website dedicated to exploring the issues associated with the legalization of marijuana in the United States with research, data collection, policy analysis, critical thinking and informed commentary.



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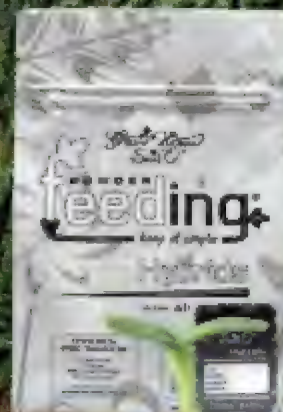
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INTERVIEW BY
MARY JANE GIBSON
PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

REGGIE WATTS

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

REGGIE WATTS IS A SELF-AVOWED DISINFORMATIONIST. WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT HE DOES, WATTS TELLS *HIGH TIMES* THAT HE'S A "MUSICALLY INCLINED COMEDIAN WHO USES HUMOR AS A PLATFORM FOR ABSURDITY, AND ALSO FOR EXPRESSING A POINT OF VIEW ABOUT THE WORLD." AND THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HIS INCREDIBLE IMPROVISED SETS, WHICH WATTS CREATES EXTEMPORANEOUSLY USING ONLY HIS EXTRAORDINARY VOCAL TALENTS AND A LOOPING MACHINE (A LINE 6 DL4, FOR THE TECH AND MUSIC GEEKS OUT THERE). NO TWO NUMBERS ARE EVER THE SAME, AND NEITHER REGGIE NOR HIS AUDIENCE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING NEXT. IT'S DISORIENTING—BUT ALSO THRILLING.

AFTER MOVING TO NEW YORK FROM SEATTLE, WATTS WON THE ANDY KAUFMAN AWARD IN 2006; HIS SUBSEQUENT RISE THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE COMEDY WORLD WAS RAPID. IN 2010, HE WAS THE NIGHTLY OPENER FOR CONAN O'BRIEN'S "PROHIBITED FROM BEING FUNNY ON TELEVISION" NORTH AMERICAN TOUR. HE HAS SINCE APPEARED ON PBS'S REVIVED *ELECTRIC COMPANY*, *THE CONAN O'BRIEN SHOW*, *LATE NIGHT WITH JIMMY FALLON*, *INSIDE AMY SCHUMER*, COMEDY CENTRAL AND COLLEGE HUMOR. HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE BANDLEADER AND CO-HOST OF IFC'S *COMEDY BANG! BANG!* WITH SCOTT AUKERMAN; MAKES FUNNY VIDEOS FOR JASH (A YOUTUBE COMEDY CHANNEL HE CREATED WITH MICHAEL CERA, SARAH SILVERMAN AND TIM & ERIC); AND TOURS EXTENSIVELY ALL OVER THE WORLD. *HIGH TIMES* CAUGHT UP WITH THE MONTANA NATIVE IN WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, ON A BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY, STONY DAY.

What's the life of a busy comedian like?

It's busy. There are just a lot of things happening at once, so even if I'm filming *Comedy Bang! Bang!* and I'm waiting around in the green room for three hours, it still weirdly makes you tired. Oddly, there's a lot of waiting around, but you're also busy, and there's lots of things happening, so you feel like a micro-mouse—like a smaller-than-average mouse that's scurrying around collecting things and stops once in a while and says, "Why am I doing this? Oh, right," and then continues.

How does your background as the child of a French mother and an African-American father influence your work?

Well, I guess because there are two different cultures coming together, two different races, it gave me a bit more of an observational bent on life. I think it would be different if I were born into a very solidly traditional family that has had a similar race and culture for a long time. I think you kind of get a jumpstart when you don't really have a particular culture or race to say, "This is what I am." So, yes—I think it's given me a hyper-observational advantage.

Do you find weed useful in your comedy?

I'm against drugs, but I'm for weed. No, I guess, weed—I would say I'm probably 70 percent high onstage when I perform. I mess around with the timing of it a lot,

so sometimes—and I usually only do edibles—I'll do something at the very beginning of the show so that, as the show progresses, I start to get higher. And sometimes I'll take it in the middle of the show, so that by the end of the show I get really crazy. And sometimes I don't take it at all.

I think that weed is kind of like when you see sports people training, where they have a parachute behind them or they're in a swimming pool, and they've got all this resistance. That's what weed is for me: It poses a challenge to be able to focus *and* let go at the same time, so you're letting go but focusing in on a kind of pure connection to creativity. There's an exercise in attaining that. So I always view it as

kind of a workout—and when I'm onstage, if I get too high, then I have to figure out how to make that work and not, you know, deal with my problems onstage in front of an audience.

It's a helpful drug to me. It's a good perspective shift; it reminds me of the speed that I like to be at in my natural state even without weed. It's a good plant to have a relationship with.

Have you tried dabs?

I have once, actually. You have to try dabs once. It was in Portland, at Helium Comedy Club, and after the show this guy who calls himself the King of Dabs, or something like that—although they weren't calling it "dabs" then, I think they were just calling it "wax". He had this little pillar of glass that had another little micro-pillar on top, like the head of a nail, and he took the torch and lit it up, and it started glowing really brightly. And he took this stuff that he'd made himself—it was oxygen-extracted—and he put it on there and then put on this little glass thing and was like, "Take a hit." So I took a hit, and it literally—it's like those movies, like those scenes in a car where they're having a casual conversation and suddenly another car sideswipes them out of nowhere. That's the feeling I had. I was really high,



and I was glad that I was able to get that high that quickly, but there's no practical use to it. I think maybe once a year you should do that, like New Year's Eve or something.

It seems like you're constantly searching for authenticity in your work. How does that relate to your pot use?

The funny thing is, when you use any kind of a drug—or any tool, I guess you could say, because to me, pot is a tool—you constantly have to question yourself. That's why I try not to do it every time; I have to realize that I'm still able to function and still able to do comedy without weed. I'll take sabbaticals for a while to kind of reset and cleanse, and then I'll go back into it.

But I think the thing that I'm always battling is ... you know, it's weird—some of my friends, they can't do pot. They're just those people that are like, "I tried it, but I can't," and inside I'm like, "You just haven't tried hard enough" [laughs]. But because of their perspective on it, I'm always having to check: Maybe it is a crutch, maybe this isn't a good thing, or what have you. But then I think about it and I'm like, "Well, I don't have a problem with it." I've gone on vacations or on tours where I haven't had pot for like a month and a half, and I don't really notice. When it's around, I'm really happy—I'm like, "Oh yeah, this is great"—but I don't notice it if it's not there. So I have to allow myself to say, "I have a relationship with this thing, and I'm going to use it as a tool in the kind of experiments that I do onstage." I'm always interested in seeing how you can be very productive in that particular state and not let it become just about being in that state.

So it's about pot being an actual tool. I think the authenticity is in that. I think that's what I'm searching for.



"When you use any kind of a drug—or any tool, I guess you could say, because to me, pot is a tool—you constantly have to question yourself."

It puts you in a state of listening to yourself?

Yeah, for sure—it allows you to listen to yourself. But also, the panic that people feel when they say, "I can't do pot. I had like this one time and I just freaked out," or whatever—well, if you used it in a clinical setting, if you had a psychologist with you, they could help you work through the anxiety that you feel and allow you to feel calm within that feeling. I think it's a helpful tool in that way, and that's the effect I'm always looking for: What's the eye of the storm? No matter how high I get, what's the eye of the storm where I feel like I have full faculty over what it is that I wish to project and talk about?

What spurred you into comedy from music?

The music in my act is definitely something I was doing as a kid. I loved music, so I was beat-boxing and making weird noises watching *Police Academy* and seeing Michael Winslow do things, and I was also seeing Bobby McFerrin and Victor Borge, *The Muppet Show*, Weird Al Yankovic ... there were lots of examples of people using music and humor.

I thought it was funny to redo songs like Weird Al. I remember when he came out with "Eat It," I did my own version called "Clean It"—it was all about cleaning products and cleaning techniques, set to "Beat It." The possible absurdity of music is something that I've just always been into, so I've kind of used it naturally in also imitating the way people talk, or bits that remind me of

Monty Python—theater mixed with music and absurdity and improvisation.

Absurdity and science are both very present in your comedy.

Science really stimulates your imagination because it stems from imagination. It's someone curious about things like "How is a bat able to navigate through a cave? It doesn't have very good eyesight." So then you start figuring out all these weird tests and you're like, "Oh shit, *that's* how." Science is great because, when used in a benevolent way, we can really further our understanding of our universe, and that puts us in our natural state: Human beings are just curious explorers. And then, of course, it's easy to make it absurd, because so many discoveries were accidents or absurdities—all the footage of guys trying to jump off of bridges with wings trying to fly, pseudo-science or fringe science, or people trying to detect ghosts and things like that. "Science" as a word can apply to anybody trying to figure out the world. You have a whole range, from the ridiculous to the absolutely profound and genius, so it's kind of everything you'd ever need.

Is the comedy world evolving? Do you see women more present on the scene?

I'm fortunate because, of all the friends that I've come up with in New York that have done comedy, I would say half of them are women: Kristen Schaal, Jacqueline Novak ... Kate Berlant is another one. Literally, it's probably 50/50 in my world, easily. I never do a show that does not have a female comedian—not because it's a rule, just because it energetically feels balanced as a human event. I think, in the comedy world, women are destroying it, but they're not doing it in a way that's saying, "Hey, I'm a woman *and* I'm funny." It's

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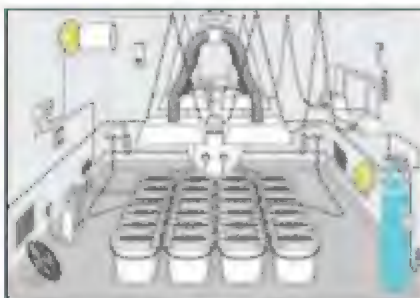
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women that have an amazing gift to be very, very funny, so you don't even think about it. They might address [the subject of gender] for a second—kind of explode that—but then they go into their humor, and you're like, "This is just funny" ... and that's the way it should always be.

Do you have any advice for young folks trying to break into comedy?

Don't do it! No, the thing about comedy is, it's *all about* just doing it. And the only thing that tells you if you're on the right path is if the audience is laughing and you're having a good time. Sometimes young comedians will be like, "How do I get into this?" It's really simple: It's like when you were a little kid and you wanted to be a skateboarder—you know, you saw a group of skateboarders, and eventually you made friends with them, and then you started skating with them, and then you got better and they started sharing tricks and stuff, and then suddenly you're hanging out with a bunch of skateboarders and *you're* a skateboarder, too. And then a new kid comes along, and you're like, "Oh yeah, that was me whatever ago." It's the same thing—become involved in your community, go to open mics, try out your material, be a part of the community, and realize that it *is* a community and that everybody's there to help each other.

What's the best advice you've ever been given?

I guess it's not really advice, but when I hear people say, "You can't do that"—that, to me, in a weird way, is the best thing I've ever heard, because I immediately say, "Of course you can." There's *always* a way.

How would you spend the perfect 24 hours if you had the ability to time-travel and all the weed you want?

Awesome—time travel and weed? That's everything in the world! I guess I'd go back to visit some of the greatest concert events and social movements—like it would be great to go to California, go to Haight and Ashbury, go to all the cliché places in 1968: see Jimi Hendrix play in London, check out Janis Joplin ... see Elvis perform! It would be awesome to actually feel what it would be like in another time period where you have no access to any of the technology that we have ... and when weed was still kind of acceptable. Back then, you could still do weed and not feel like you're going to get destroyed by the government.



What will Reggie say next?

"Anything that promotes the idea that pot can make a lot of money for the state is great for people who use marijuana for whatever purposes they want to use it for."

So then how do you feel about corporations capitalizing on pot's current "It" status?

I don't mind ... it promotes it, actually. And you're always going to have the option of finding someone who does it better. I mean, just because Marlboro buys a bunch of weed fields in Colorado or something like that and starts packaging cigarettes—but they're "weed-a-rettes," or whatever—I don't mind that. That's kind of funny to me. There are certain things that you just can't do on your own very easily—if you don't like the way a company makes cars, you're not going to go, "I hate these cars! I'm going to do my own *homegrown* car!" But there are certain things that corporations cannot do as well, because people *can* do them at home—you can grow your own weed, or you can buy it from a person who's really good at growing weed.

So the variables are always going to be there; you can choose any option you want. But anything that promotes the idea that pot can make a lot of money for the state is great for people who use marijuana for whatever purposes they want to use it for. It solidifies pot into the culture—and I think that's important. 🌿

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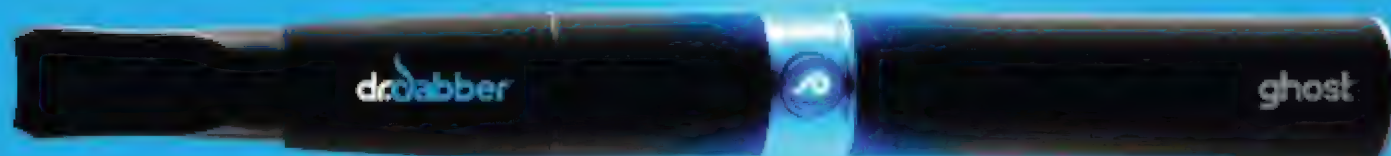
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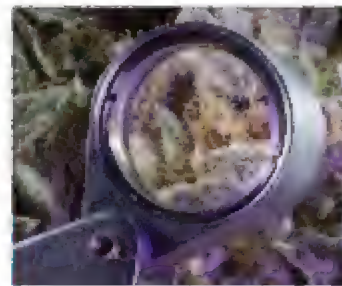
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Cultivation Clinic

A few smart pruning tips and tricks to help you boost both potency and yields. *By Nico Escondido*



This gardener has fallen way behind on pruning and trimming; it will take him quite some time to get these plants to a more efficient state of development.

A Primer on Pruning

One aspect of good cultivation that is often overlooked is the ability to prune cannabis plants effectively. Pruning not only helps to shape and train the plant's development, which can be absolutely essential in small spaces or when growing in a "sea of green" (SOG) or "screen of green" (ScrOG) setup; if done correctly, it can also serve as a way to increase potency and yields.

At the most basic level, pruning is simply the removal of parts of the plant, such as individual leaves, branches or even small buds. As a rule of thumb, it's always a good idea to remove any dead

or dying parts from a plant. But pruning can also help the plant to develop and function more efficiently. Sometimes this entails the removal of living or seemingly vibrant and healthy parts of the plant as well. The goal here is to direct energy and growth to the areas of the plant that you want to see most developed. The "conservation of energy" principle states that all energy that hasn't been wasted can be redirected. In the case of cannabis, the top third of the plant is where the largest flowers develop, and redirecting energy there via pruning helps to increase resin production and, ultimately, yields.

Thus, trimming off leaves can be an essential part of a good pruning program. While larger, dark-green leaves look pretty and healthy on your plants, it's important to realize that halfway through a leaf's life, it has reached its photosynthetic peak. This means that photosynthesis gradually begins to decline in the leaf, and it creates less sugar (glucose) for the plant's nourishment with each passing day. Eventually, the leaf will consume more energy than it produces. For this reason, many growers tend to take off the larger leaves in order to redirect that energy to the newer, younger leaves and buds



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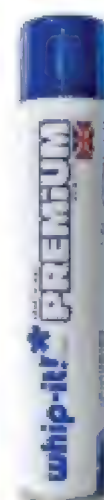
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Expert Grow Advice

Ladybugs, fan sizes, CBD strains,
“sea of green” and more



Send your cannabis cultivation questions to [@deardanko](https://twitter.com/deardanko) or deardanko@hightimes.com.

SUBJECT: **Ladybugs and Spray & Grow**

FROM: **Judy M.**

🌱 I'll be moving soon and plan to start a small (personal-use) grow in my garage. But I worry about pests, and I wonder: If ladybugs were introduced, would that be a viable solution? I also want to use Spray & Grow, since I've used it with houseplants and veggies and had excellent results.

I appreciate all the advice I get from reading *High Times*—what a wonderful resource for all of us newbies to growing!

Dear Judy,

Thanks for the kind words! We love to hear them as we celebrate 40 years of helping people grow their own cannabis.

The most important thing to remember about pests is that you need to do everything you can to keep them out of your garden in the first place. What some people call “IPM,” or integrated pest management, is really just a fancy term for keeping things clean, checking your plants often, and dealing immediately with any issues that arise using a variety of tried-and-true methods.

Ladybugs play a healthy role in IPM, but you should know that they migrate as soon as their food population (spider mites, etc.) dwindles, so they won't wipe out pest populations completely before moving on. Be sure to change your shoes and clothes before entering your grow space from outdoors, and always keep pets away as well.

Spray & Grow is a safe product to use, made with 100 percent organic micronutrients that help feed your plants things they might not get from a basic NPK formula. You'll want to use it liberally during the vegetative stage and less during the early part of flowering, then taper off and not use it at all during the later stages of flowering.



Ladybugs are beneficial insects that help control spider mite populations.

Danko Tip: Transplant your clones into larger containers as soon as you see roots emerge from the cloning medium.



CBD God from BC Bud Depot provides relief for patients seeking strains rich in cannabidiol.

pressure and pull extra air through any cracks, cutting down on the amount of odor that can escape. Make sure you have at least one oscillating fan per every 4-square-foot area, so you'll need about three of those strategically placed to distribute the fresh air drawn from the lower part of your growroom and expel spent air from the highest point (because, as we learned in school, heat rises).

SUBJECT: CBD MIA
FROM: The Weed Viking

🌿 My dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer two years ago—the “mild” variety. I’ve convinced him to try CBD oil, having shown him *Run From the Cure* and CNN’s *Weed*. Problem is, he doesn’t want to get high (sigh). So I want to get my hands on Charlotte’s Web seeds—but as far as I can tell, they’re not for sale anywhere.

Can you tell me if this is true? And if so, why? If those seeds are that good, why aren’t they made available online? I understand that the Stanley brothers, having bred the strain, can monopolize it any way they want to, but still Charlotte’s Web could help so many people the world over.

Anyway, could you guys recommend the second-best CBD strain? I will make the oil with my yet-to-be used Magical Butter machine. Can’t wait.

Please help a Viking out.

SUBJECT: Fan Size
FROM: TheCatica

🌿 I was wondering if you could give me a ventilation tip.

I’m switching my 10’ x 10’ grow tent from a sealed room to a ventilated one. Every time the AC kicked in, the tent would be squeezed inwards, and it just doesn’t seem right. So instead of running the AC all the time, I would rather ventilate the tent really well. What size intake and exhaust fans would you recommend? I have a 1,000-watt, two 600-watt, and a couple of induction 420 lights. Should the intake and exhaust be the same CFM rating, or should I intake less and exhaust more? What would you do?

Dear TheCatica,
 With growroom ventilation, you’re trying to do two things: remove spent air

and heat, and provide fresh, cool air to your plants. You want to be able to clear the air from your growroom in about five minutes. Any faster and you risk dehydrating the plants; any slower and their growth will begin to stagnate. There are several other factors to consider, such as whether your lighting is air-cooled and vented separately, but I’m going to assume that it’s not.

For a 10’ x 10’ grow tent, assuming you have 8-foot ceilings, your space adds up to 800 cubic feet. This means you’ll need an exhaust fan with a cfm rating of around 160 in order to remove the air every five minutes. Keep in mind that any carbon filtration will slow your airflow significantly, so boost the rating accordingly. I recommend a 240-cfm exhaust fan for your space, with a charcoal filter.

Pulling out air stronger than you draw it into your space will create negative

Dear Viking,
 Many new discoveries are being made about the healing benefits of cannabidiol (CBD). Strains rich in CBD provide relief and treatment for many patients, without the sometimes-debilitating effects of large amounts of THC. But while these results, both scientific and anecdotal, show promise, we shouldn’t rush to the judgment that “CBD-only” medicine (or legislation) is the answer.

The important thing to remember about cannabis is that it works best as a “whole-plant medicine.” This means that isolating different cannabinoids, while important for research purposes, isn’t the best way to treat patients. If you’ve been hearing the phrase “entourage effect,” this is what it means. The ratio of CBD to THC is far more important than the levels of either one alone. The many cannabinoids in the cannabis plant (and there are plenty of others besides CBD



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Danko Tip: Harvest your plants at the end of their dark cycle, before the lights have turned on for the day.

and THC) work in concert to reach our receptors and act upon our bodies.

As for Charlotte's Web and the Stanley brothers, there are many other high-CBD strains on the market in seed form besides their "proprietary" variety. Anything from the groundbreaking CBD Crew in Spain (cbdcrew.org) and CB Diesel from MTG Seeds (mtgseeds.com) are two that spring to mind immediately. CBD God (bcbuddepot.com), Cannatonic, Harlequin, Sour Tsunami and R4 are just a few others I can think of, but new ones are being developed all the time. Plenty of options exist, so you don't have to rely on any one strain in particular.

Good luck and healing thoughts to you and your dad!



High-intensity discharge lighting should hang well above the canopy to prevent burning plants

SUBJECT: **Yield Sign**

FROM: **Rayzer Mahne**

I'm not a first-time grower, but I would also say I'm not a pro (yet) either. I've always done hydroponics with one to two plants per every 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light, and recently I've been thinking of switching it up. I want to do around 80 to 100 plants in a "sea of green" (SOG) setup under eight 1,000-watt HPS lights, and I have an environmental controller keeping the humidity, temps and CO₂ right where they should be. All that said, I was wondering what a good estimate for my yield would be? Should I stay hydro or switch to soil for my SOG? And if I should switch to hydro, what kind of setup would be ideal to start my SOG? I want to get a base down, and then I'll tweak it to my plants' liking.

Dear Rayzer,

Adding that many plants to your system will require plenty more work and could possibly put you in more jeopardy as well, depending on where you live and what the laws on plant limits are. That being said, if you still wish to grow in a "sea of green" setup, you should expect to yield approximately 1 to 2 pounds of dry bud per each 1,000-watt light. On the plus side, the other consideration is that you'll have a shorter vegetative period, because plants grown so close together don't need as much time for building leaves and branches. This could ultimately result in an extra harvest cycle per year, leading you to appreciate why

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Danko Tip: Compost teas should be oxygenated for 24 hours to activate and multiply the beneficial microbes and bacteria.

people switch over to SOG-style growing.

However, growing hydroponically in a “sea of green” requires dialing in your system to perfection. Although soil is more forgiving, a hydroponic system—when set up and running properly—will cause your plants to grow quickly and efficiently. The ideal hydro setup for SOG growing is in a tray that floods and drains (also known as “ebb and flow”). Fill the tray with your medium of choice and then crowd your rooted cuttings together. Don’t let them vegetate more than two weeks before inducing flowering with a 12-hour-on/12-hour-off lighting cycle.



Oscillating fans reduce heat and circulate air.

SUBJECT: **The Heat Is On**

FROM: **Jeremy D.**

I have a grow tent in my garage with three plants inside. I live in Texas, where it can reach 95°F to 98°F, and it’s the beginning of summer, so my tent reaches up to 92°F when I’m not running any fans. With the fans, I can keep the temps to about 83°F to 85°F—88°F sometimes. The tent is around 24’ x 18’ x 67’. Is there a cheap way to keep that grow tent cool (as opposed to buying a big, bulky air-conditioning unit)? I support a family of five by myself, so money is always tight. Any help would be greatly appreciated. By the way, I love y’all’s *Free Weed* podcast. Danny Danko, you are the shit—you’ve helped me out a lot!

Dear Jeremy,

Thanks for the praise for our podcast! Our goal is to teach people to grow their own because that’s really the only way to get free weed and to free the weed at the same time. There’s no way Monsanto and Marlboro can sell us something that we can produce ourselves.

Not all air conditioning units are bulky, but AC is certainly the best answer to your problem. There are affordable units that can stand alone and don’t have to be fitted in a window-sill. Unfortunately, I can’t think of a cheaper permanent solution that will significantly lower the temps in your grow space to a level that will be tolerable for your plants. I guess the best thing you could do is to move out of Texas—not just because of the heat, but because the laws there are very strict. Colorado isn’t so far away, so please consider a move to a more cannabis-friendly (and cooler!) location. 🌿

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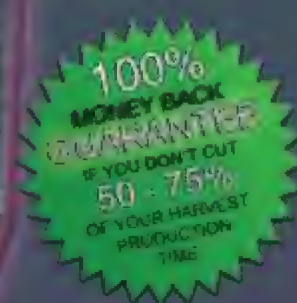
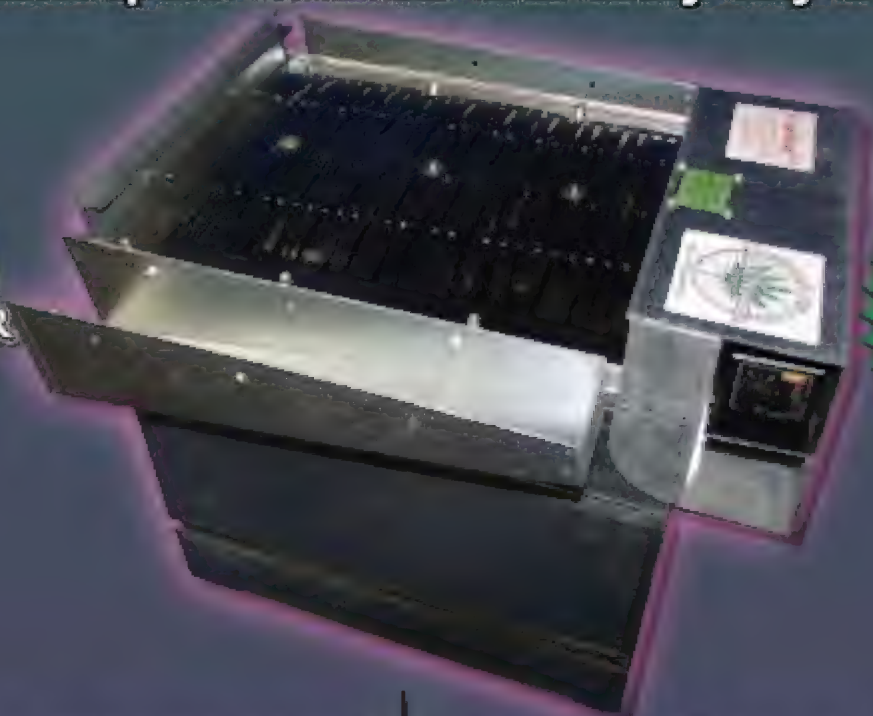
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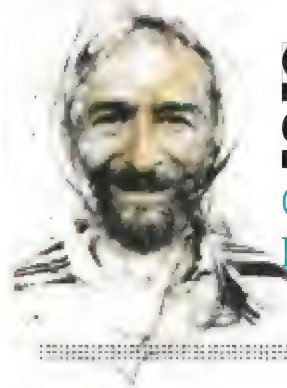
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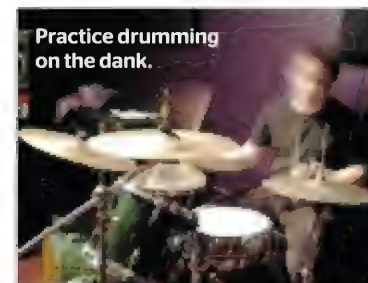
CBD, Uruguay and
perception

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

Can CBD help with anxiety? I
chew a gum with 50 mg of CBD.
It really relaxes me.

Ed Munch

Hi Ed,
I know of one experiment in
which people were given 300
mg of CBD before they had
to deliver a speech, and they
were less stressed out after-
wards. But in another experi-
ment, folks were given 600
mg without any stressors and
reported that it didn't change
their feelings any more than
a placebo did. Note that these
doses are markedly higher
than the one you mentioned.
You might try a cheaper gum
to see if it's relaxing, too.



plant, the experience seems way
different. Why is that?

Ginger "Brownie" Baker

Hi Ginger,
Cannabis tends to slow the
perception of time and can
make people think that some-
thing takes longer than it actu-
ally does. Data also suggest
that a tolerance can develop to
this effect. As with so much in
life, practice makes perfect.

Now that Uruguay has legal
weed, will their researchers have
an advantage?

Herb Verde

Hi Herb,
At least one set of investiga-
tors in Uruguay has already
geared up for such research.
They won't have to jump
through the same hoops with
government agencies and
ethics boards when it comes
to giving people cannabis in
a laboratory setting. Needless
to say, I envy them. Don't be
surprised if the most interest-
ing new data are increasingly
published in Spanish.

Do admirers of the plant respond
better to therapy?

Sigmund C. Munster

Hi Sigmund,
Psychotherapy often works
best when people recognize
that their thoughts aren't
always consistent with reality.
For example, labeling an event
"an unparalleled tragedy"
or "the worst disaster ever"
tends to depress people more
than seeing the same event
as unfortunate but surmount-
able. All of these assessments
are thoughts, not facts. Noth-
ing's been published about the
idea, but I find that cannabis
aficionados are experienced
with looking at things in dif-
ferent ways, which can help
the process. 🌿

Do you have a favorite ganja flick?

Roller Ebert

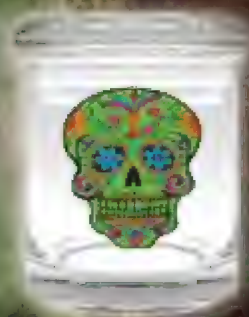
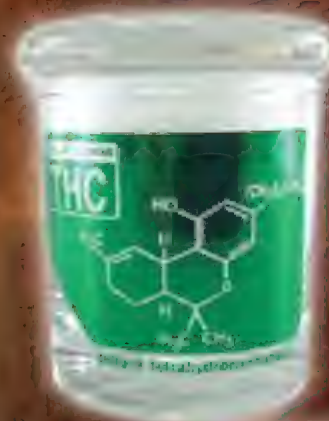
Hi Roller,
Spirited Away. Watch it with
a good *sativa* and you'll
understand what I mean.

When I play drums with a metro-
nome after communing with the

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is
a professor of psychology at
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There's no denying that dabbing has become a contentious issue among consumers and non-consumers alike. Those on the pro-dabs side argue that concentrates provide the user with a cleaner, better-tasting and more potent experience than smoking raw plant matter. Detractors insist that the act of dabbing provides a harmful, even destructive image of cannabis users. And for people on the outside looking in—i.e., those who don't partake of cannabis, either as flowers or dabs—the practice, at first glance, may seem similar to smoking crack or meth. But whichever side of the line you're on, there's no denying that the torch has become a source of bad PR.

Those who dab (or “dab people,” as I like to refer to our kind) are not going to stop dabbing anytime soon; indeed, our numbers will only grow as more cannabis users learn about connoisseur-grade concentrates. Since this is the case, I'd like to make a few suggestions to dab people all over the world.

First, don't leave your tools out where everyone can see them. What would the average non-dabber (like your mom) think upon discovering a torch and dental tools lying casually on your coffee table? *Crackhead? Drug fiend?*

Second, if you're still using an oversized hardware-store torch, please trade it in for a sleek culinary or designer torch, which are increasingly available. Better yet, invest in an electric nail!

Third, don't dab in public—period. And more importantly,



Does dabbing have an image problem?

never dab and drive! An alarming crop of “driving while dabbing” videos has popped up on social media. The danger is undeniable—and so is the idiocy. Why create this kind of instant evidence for opponents of cannabis legalization?

Recently, in my hometown during a spring parade, someone thought it would be a great idea to park a “dab bus” nearby and offer any random spectator a dab. This immediately became fuel for our opponents in their efforts to thwart local pro-pot legislation.

Eventually, people will learn that concentrates are a safer and cleaner form of using cannabis. And without doubt, more efficient (and less controversial) delivery systems will be developed in the future. Until then, let's be discreet—and smart. *Josh Shipman*

Josh Shipman is the resident grower for Fremont County Cannabis in Colorado. He specializes in organic horticulture.

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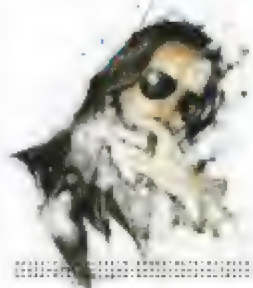
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Medical Cup Meltdown

Feeling shaky in Sonoma.

Valerie Corral



Usually, when we work the Cannabis Cup, the days seem to fly by, as we zip dutifully from one task (or vice) to the next. But not at this year's Sonoma Cup—this time, ol' Helios had gone postal, and everything just *dragged out* all slow and sweaty and stoned as hell. After shooting for several hours in the oppressive heat, your humble reporter was just about spent. But I had one more interview to do before calling it a day: activist extraordinaire Valerie Corral.

Since first using marijuana back in 1970s to treat her epilepsy, Valerie has been a committed caregiver and pro-pot drug warrior. In 1993, along with her then-husband Mike, she founded the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM)—America's oldest medical cannabis collective—in Santa Cruz. For decades, Valerie has fought against disease and for patients; she even fought the DEA—and *won*.

In recognition of these struggles and triumphs, Valerie and Mike were receiving our Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award later that night. Which is why I found myself at Valerie's booth around 2:30 p.m., nervously awaiting her arrival, and why what happened next was especially embarrassing: As soon as I began the interview, I became very dizzy and sweaty; my heart began to race, and my knees and hands began to tremble violently.

"I'm sorry, Valerie," I apologized, "I realize this is very unprofessional, but I don't think I can continue the interview ... I suddenly don't feel very well."

Now, there were several factors causing this unfortunate situation: the heat, inadequate hydration, the pulled-pork sandwich churning in my gut ... and yeah,

maybe I *did* have a few spoonfuls of medicated ice cream (which I don't normally do while I'm working) ... but that vanilla-

honey-caramel cup looked *sooo* good, and the Beezle's Creamery guy swore it wasn't potent

In any case, all of that just added to the core problem—a genetic condition I have called "essential tremor." You see, even under normal circumstances, my hands tend to quiver a bit. But under stress, my hands and knees can shake uncontrollably. It was this ailment—amplified by the aforementioned factors—that caused my heatstroke meltdown.

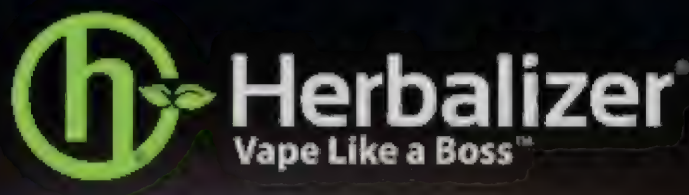
But instead of becoming disconcerted or annoyed, Valerie did what she reputedly does best: She kicked into caregiver mode, offering me water and a chair, and reassuring me that my wellbeing was far more important to her than the interview. Within minutes, I was returning to normal. I thanked her for her kindness and headed back to the *High Times* booth.

That night after the awards show, I caught up with Valerie again backstage—this time cool, and collected—and got the interview I'd hoped for. But I'd gotten something far more valuable: the respect of a great woman.

"It took a lot of guts to be honest like you did," she told me. "A lot of guys wouldn't have been secure enough to show vulnerability ... I really admire that."

At the end of the day, my meltdown acted as the catalyst, turning acquaintances into newfound friends. Thank you, Valerie, for so beautifully epitomizing the spirit of compassion inherent in the cannabis community. 🌿

Watch the interview at high-times.com/corral.



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The New Pot Economy

The conscious and empowered consumer is king.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

The United States stands to gain many benefits as nearly 90 years of failed “reefer madness” policies are rejected by an increasingly informed electorate. Along with revenue from taxation that will broadly benefit society, regulations ensuring access to safe products, and an end to the imprisonment of marijuana users while directing police resources toward real crime reduction, the legalization of cannabis will result in another rarely explored asset: the conscious and empowered cannabis consumer.

Aside from medical marijuana patients with retail access to legal products, what cannabis consumer has *not* experienced the ridiculous waste of time, energy and dignity that goes into trying to procure some ganja on the black market? Was the consumer in a position to care where the cannabis came from, how it was grown, and who was involved in the process of getting it from point A to point B? Furthermore, if the customer was scammed or otherwise unhappy with the product, how much leverage did he or she have? After all, there’s no Better Business Bureau for bud sellers.

You may recall the classic scene from HBO’s *Curb Your Enthusiasm* in which Larry David, trying to buy medical cannabis to help his father’s glaucoma, seeks out a street dealer with pot for sale. When Larry (a rank noob when it comes to these kinds of transactions) asks a few



The four touchstones of consumer buying—location, price, quality and service—dictate which cannabis-related businesses will be successful or not.

awkward questions to ensure that he receives good quality and a fair price, the dealer shrugs and says, “Look, pay me 200 bucks or go fuck yourself ... I don’t need to sell drugs; the drugs will sell themselves.”

In America, a nation with a consumption-driven economy, a company’s fate has traditionally hung on the individual decisions made by a host of potential customers either to purchase or not purchase the company’s product (as well as,

these days, what websites they choose to make their purchases online). We’re now beginning to see that kind of consumer choice in the cannabis community.

At the dawn of the era of legal pot, in states like Colorado and Washington, the cannabis consumer is now no different from other retail customers, meaning that the four touchstones of consumer buying—location, price, quality and service—dictate which cannabis-related businesses will be successful or not. Additionally, the same technology that empowers consumers to rate and review restaurants and other retail establishments is available these days for cannabis-related businesses.

In its capacity as a 45-year-old nonprofit public-advocacy organization for cannabis consumers, NORML has responded to this new era of legal cannabis sales by launching the NORML Business Network, an authentic Better Business Bureau for cannabis-related companies that helps to inform people which ones are engaging in consumer-friendly practices. Businesses that charge fair prices, cultivate or infuse pot safely and ethically, create well-packaged and clearly labeled products, and treat their employees decently by providing competitive compensation packages will be highlighted on NORML’s webpage.

In our new era of cannabis consumerism, the days of “take it or leave it” are finally coming to a happy end. 🌿

FREEDOM FIGHTER

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Houston’s Honcho

Jason Miller pumps up the activist volume in Texas.

Jason Miller is an entrepreneur in the field of online media. He’s president and CEO of Internet LAVA, a web development and Internet marketing company that provides services to law firms all over the United States.

Miller became involved with NORML in 2010, when Internet

LAVA began sponsoring the advocacy group’s legal seminars—in fact, Miller has provided support as a sponsor for the last eight NORML legal seminars. He is also the co-founder of Lawyer Legion, a national lawyers’ directory and social-media website that also powers the lawyers’ directory on NORML.org.

A pro-pot Republican, Miller began



his political activism in 2012. He served as a delegate to the Texas GOP’s state convention in 2012 and 2014, and he is currently the chairman of Precinct 902 for the Harris County Republican Party. In 2013, Miller decided to focus his political efforts on marijuana legalization in Texas. Since then, he’s been a sustaining member of RAMP (Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition) and assists with

marketing and web technology.

When he joined Houston NORML in 2013, Miller immediately redesigned its website and helped develop new features to benefit members. In June, he was elected Houston NORML’s executive director. Miller has set clear goals for his tenure: “I plan to use my experience as a business owner and entrepreneur to grow this chapter and assist other grassroots activists in Harris County.”

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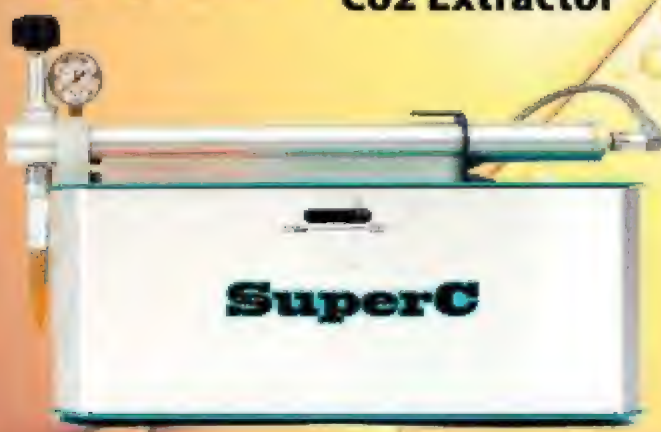
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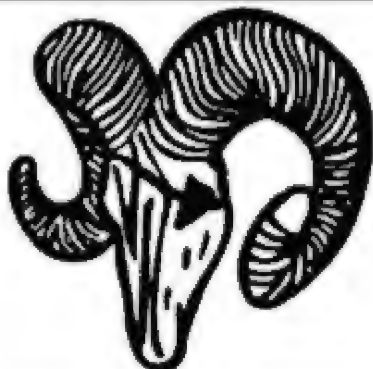
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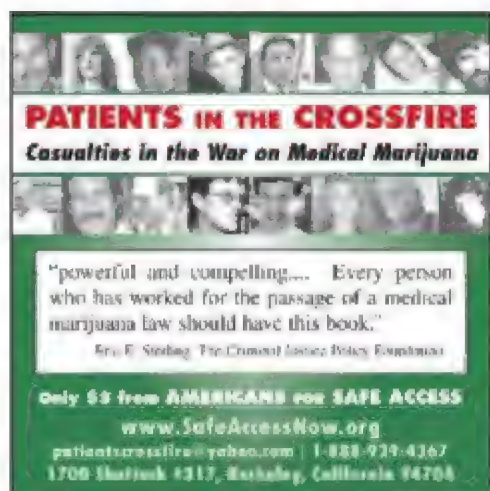
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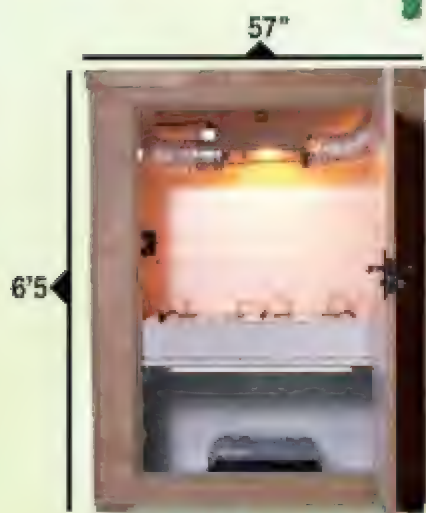


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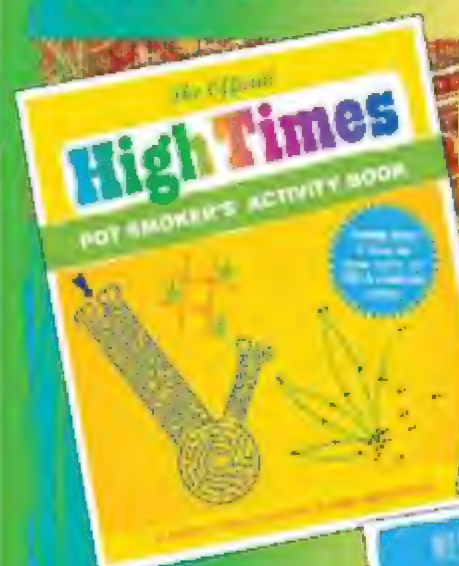
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Indica vs. Sativa

Cultivation editor Nico Escondido, our resident canna-scientist, provides a detailed essay covering the descriptive and physical differences of cannabis' two primary sub-species. Learn the chemical and scientific properties of each that cause us to *feel* so differently.

Bodacious Buds of Autumn

Editorial director Dan Skye visits gardens in Washington, California, Arizona and Colorado as traditional harvest season kicks into high gear.

10 Steps for Successful Cloning

Dru West, author of *Grow Secrets of the West Coast Masters*, demystifies the art of inducing roots to grow from a cutting taken from a mother plant. Learn 10 simple secrets for cloning and jump-start your garden.

U.S. Cannabis Cup in Washington

When High Times mounts a Cannabis Cup in a state where adult recreational use is legal, an extra-special celebration breaks out. Find out which strains won top honors!

Psychedelic Healing Tour

Amber Lyon was an award-winning journalist for CNN until she produced a film exposing human rights abuses in Bahrain. CNN International refused to air the piece due to a cozy relationship they had with the Bahraini regime. After this career setback, Lyon travelled the world taking part in shamanic psychedelic healing ceremonies that, she says, saved her life.

Who is Ron Paul?

In our feature interview, the "intellectual godfather" of the Tea Party discusses the failed Drug War, American foreign policy and gives his blessing to the marijuana legalization initiatives across America.

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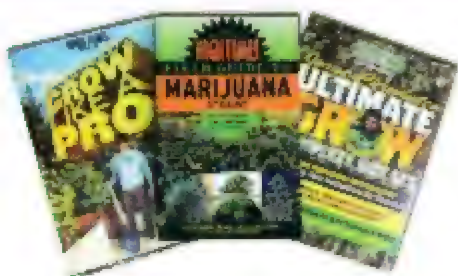
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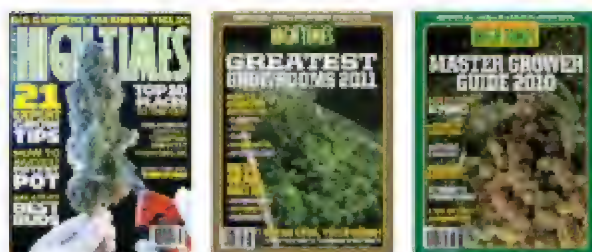
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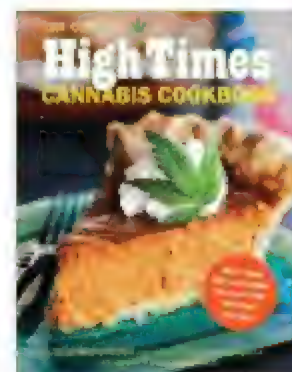


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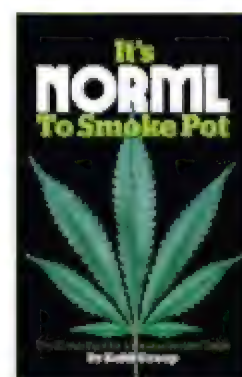
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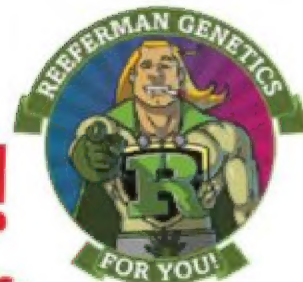
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